HALF DONE: SENATE SENDS TAX CUT DEAL TO HOUSE 3

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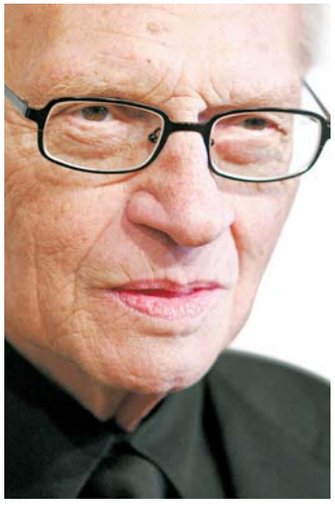
Thursday



LAST CALL

CNN bids farewell to legendary talk show host Larry King **27**

DEADLY VOYAGE

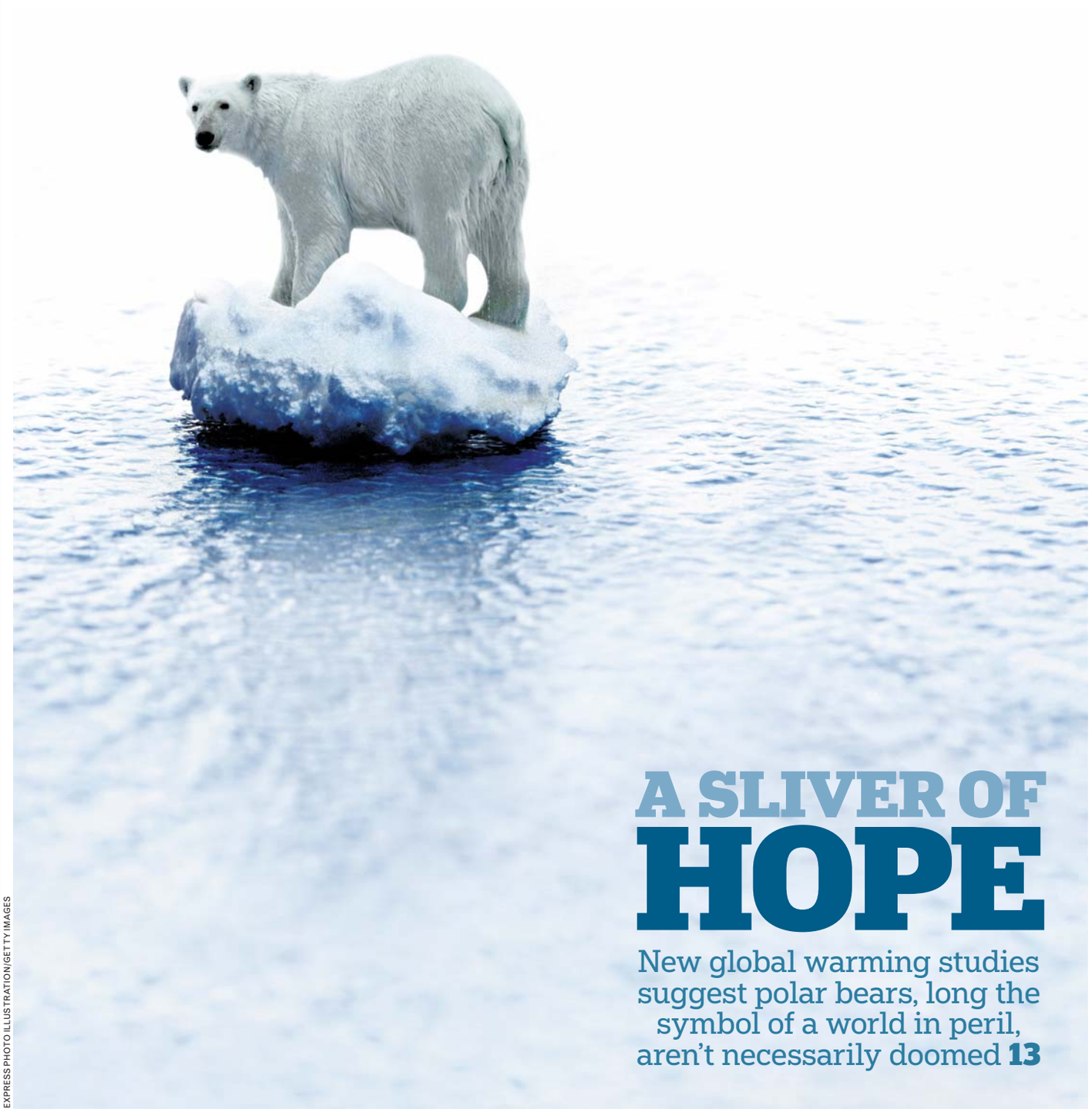
Refugee boat hits rocks off Australia, killing at least 27 **9**

JOY TO THE WEIRD

Break from tradition with offbeat takes on the holiday spirit **E5**

am 31 | 23 pm

FOR EXTENDED FORECAST, SEE PAGE 33



EXPRESS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GETTY IMAGES

A SLIVER OF HOPE

New global warming studies suggest polar bears, long the symbol of a world in peril, aren't necessarily doomed **13**

eo

eye openers

Those Hidden Fees Will Sneak Up on You

A suburban Philadelphia woman is suing Capital One after she received an erroneous bill for about $300 million. Patrice Perry said she endured months of harassment before receiving the bill in August. The $286,651,237 bill was accompanied by a letter threatening legal action if she did not submit her payment. **(AP)**

Actually Mining Copper Sounds Faster Than This

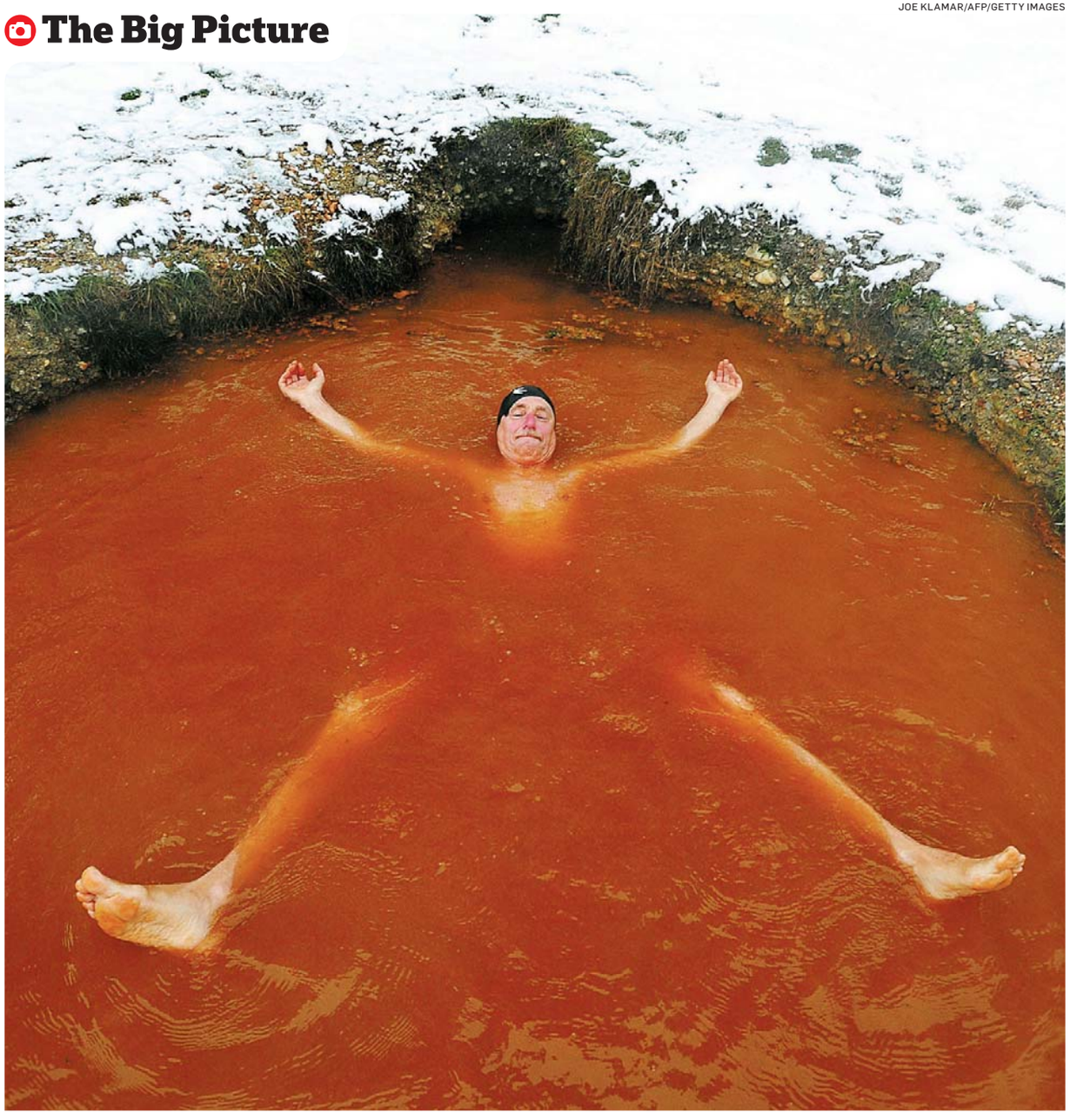
Someone trying to steal copper wire burned down Birmingham, Ala.'s Christmas tree. The person or persons stripped electrical wires off the Norwegian Spruce early Wednesday, then started a fire. Police believe thieves were attempting to separate copper wire from the plastic insulation on Christmas decorations. **(AP)**

If You Love Something, Set It Free

Authorities in Alabama say all they had to do to catch six bank robbery suspects was follow the money flying out the window of a speeding car. A deputy spotted the red Nissan Maxima cruising down a state highway, with cash left in its wake. Cherokee County Sheriff Jeff Shaver says four gunmen took an undisclosed amount of money during the robbery Tuesday. He says the six suspects ditched their first getaway car and got into the Maxima to try to throw off authorities. **(AP)**

The Big Picture

JOE KLAMAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A BATHER TAKES a dip in a natural thermal spring near the Slovakian village of Kalameny, as the outdoor temperature dropped to 21 degrees Fahrenheit on Tuesday. **(GETTY)**

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House OKs Repeal of 'Don't Ask'

Washington

House lawmakers approved a bill Wednesday to end the "don't ask, don't tell" law, giving new momentum to an effort backed by President Obama, Pentagon leaders and gay rights activists to end the ban on gays serving openly in the military this year.

The House voted 250-175 to repeal the 17-year-old Defense Department law that bars gays and lesbians from serving openly in uniform. Most House Republicans opposed Wednesday's vote.

The issue moves once again to the Senate, where a vote on the issue will not occur until next week at the earliest, if at all, according to Senate aides.

The bill's language originally appeared in an 800-page defense authorization bill passed by the House in May. But the bill failed a procedural vote in the Senate last week, requiring the House to vote again on a new measure to end the ban.

Sens. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, introduced the stand-alone bill last week, believing it would earn broader support. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Tax Deal Heads to a House Vote

Obama urges body to quickly approve $858B compromise

Washington

The Senate on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed a sweeping tax package that would save millions of Americans thousands of dollars in higher taxes while also reducing their Social Security taxes and extending jobless benefits.

President Obama swiftly urged the House to pass the $858 billion bill without changes.

A wide array of tax cuts enacted under President George W. Bush is scheduled to expire on Jan. 1. The bill passed by the Senate, 81-19, would extend those cuts for two years.

"I know there are different aspects of this plan to which members of Congress on both sides of the aisle object. That's the nature of compromise," Obama saidWednesday. "But we worked to negotiate an agreement that's a win for middle-class families and a win for our economy, and we can't afford to let it fall victim to either delay or defeat."

House Democratic leaders said they expect to vote on the bill Thursday.

"Middle-class families need a boost in this economy, and that is exactly what this plan gives them," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Wednesday that while the tax bill "is not perfect," it will create 2 million jobs and aid middle-class American families.

"It is time ... to put aside the partisan talking points and accomplish what the American people sent us here to do."

— **A LETTER SIGNED BY 31 HOUSE DEMOCRATS**, SENT TO HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI, URGING PASSAGE OF THE TAX CUT PACKAGE PASSED WEDNESDAY BY THE SENATE.

The bill also would renew a program of benefits for the long-term unemployed and enact a one-year cut in Social Security taxes.

After GOP insistence, the plan includes a more generous estate tax provision: The first $10 million of a couple's estate could pass to heirs without taxation. The balance would be subject to a 35 percent tax rate.

House Democrats said they are considering a vote to impose the higher estate tax, perhaps as an amendment to the package. (AP)

Meanwhile ...

The Senate plunged into debate on a U.S.-Russia nuclear arms treaty on Wednesday. Earning a 66-32 vote to move ahead on the pact, Democrats cleared an initial hurdle to New START, which would lower the cap on nuclear warheads for both countries and establish a system for monitoring and verification. Republicans had threatened to force the treaty to be read aloud in the Senate, which would have delayed consideration. (AP)

Time, Zuckerberg 'Like' This: Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg has been named Time's "Person of the Year" for 2010, joining the ranks of those who the magazine believes most influenced events of the past year. At 26, Zuckerberg is the youngest to win since the first one chosen, Charles Lindbergh, who was 25 when he was named in 1927, Time said Wednesday. Time cited Zuckerberg "for changing how we all live our lives." (AP)

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Nation

U.S. Files Gulf Spill Suit

Government seeking to hold BP, 8 others liable for disaster

Washington

The Justice Department on Wednesday sued BP Exploration and Production Inc. and eight other companies in the Gulf oil spill disaster in an effort to recover billions of dollars from the largest offshore spill in U.S. history.

The Obama administration's lawsuit asks that the companies be held liable without limitation under the Oil Pollution Act for all removal costs and damages caused by the oil spill, including damages to natural resources. The lawsuit also seeks civil penalties under the Clean Water Act.

"We intend to prove these violations caused or contributed to the massive oil spill," Attorney General Eric Holder said Wednesday.

Backstory

The Justice Department isn't the first government entity to sue BP. Alabama Attorney General Troy King filed federal lawsuits in August on behalf of the state against BP, rig owner Transocean, cement contractor Halliburton Energy Services Inc. and other companies that worked on the ill-fated drilling project. And other companies that were not targeted by the Justice Department lawsuit could be added later if the department decides that the evidence warrants it. (AP)

An explosion that killed 11 workers at BP's Macondo well last April led to oil spewing from the undersea well — more than 200 million gallons by the government's estimate. BP disputes the figure.

The department filed the suit in federal court in New Orleans. The lawsuit alleges that safety and operating regulations were violated in the period leading up to April 20.

The staff of a presidentially appointed commission looking into the spill has said that the disaster resulted from questionable decisions and management failures by three companies: BP, the well owner and operator; Transocean, the owner of the Deepwater Horizon rig; and Halliburton.

The panel found 11 decisions made by these companies increased risk. Most saved time, and all but one had a safer alternative. (AP)

300

The approximate number of potential suits filed in the Gulf oil spill by fishing interests, the tourism industry, restaurants, clubs and even vacationers who claim the spill forced them to cancel and lose a deposit. (AP)

Farmers in Fla. Ward off Frost

BILL INGRAM/AP

A FARMER STANDS near a burning smudge pot early Wednesday morning in Lake Worth, Fla., trying to keep his hydroponic strawberry fields warm. A fierce cold snap ensnaring Florida has sent temperatures below freezing throughout most of the state, causing fear among growers and spurring extra measures to prevent frost from wrecking their harvest. (AP)

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Nation

Police: Man Plotted School Board Assault

Ex-convict referred to class struggles in Facebook posting

Panama City, Fla.

The ex-convict who calmly held a school board at gunpoint and then began randomly firing had circled the date on a calendar found in his mobile home, evidence he had been planning the attack for some time, police said.

Bay District officials also confirmed Wednesday that Clay A. Duke's wife had been fired earlier this year from her job teaching special education. Video of Tuesday's meeting showed Duke, 56, spray-painting a red V on the wall and complaining about taxes and his wife being fired before shooting.

No one was hurt except Duke, who shot himself after exchanging fire with a security guard, police said.

AP

Clay A. Duke, 56, shot himself Tuesday after firing on a school board meeting.

"It could have been a monumental tragedy," Superintendent Bill Husfelt said. "God was standing in front of me, and I will go to my grave believing that."

Duke also apparently created a Facebook page last week that refers to class warfare and is laced with images from the movie "V for Vendetta," in which a mysterious figure battles a totalitarian government. **(AP)**

Hearsay

"The White House's 'olive branches' to the business community are more like twigs, really."

— **REP. JOHN BOEHNER,** R-OHIO, IN A STATEMENT ABOUT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S MEETING WEDNESDAY WITH 20 BUSINESS LEADERS ABOUT BOOSTING JOB GROWTH.

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Karen C.
Before photo, May 2008
After photo, January 2010

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World

Iraq Exposes Bomb Plot

Insurgent confessions reveal al-Qaeda plan to attack U.S., Europe

Baghdad

Iraqi authorities have obtained confessions from captured insurgents who claim al-Qaeda is planning suicide attacks in the United States and Europe during the Christmas season, two senior officials said Wednesday.

A senior U.S. intelligence official confirmed the threat as credible.

Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani told The Associated Press that the botched bombing in central Stockholm last weekend was among the alleged plots the insurgents revealed. Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, in a telephone interview from New York, called the claims "a critical threat."

Both al-Bolani and Zebari said Iraq has informed Interpol of the alleged plots, and alerted authorities in the U.S. and European countries of the possible danger. Neither official specified which country or countries in Europe are alleged targets.

There was no way to verify the insurgents' claims. But al-Bolani said the claims — if true — show al-Qaeda remains a presence in Iraq. (AP)

Backstory

The confessions were the result of recent operations by Iraqi security forces that have netted at least 73 suspected operatives in the last two weeks, al-Bolani said. An Iraqi intelligence official said threat information appeared to indicate that Denmark might be attacked, but refused to give details. Similarly, a senior U.S. intelligence official in Washington said authorities were closely watching two people in an unspecified European country suspected of being linked to the plot. (AP)

ALKIS KONSTANTINIDIS/AP

Protesters throw petrol bombs during clashes Wednesday in Athens, Greece. Police said 23,000 people took part in the event.

Riots Erupt Amid Greece Strike

Athens, Greece

Protesters fought running battles with riot police in central Athens on Wednesday, torching cars, hurling gasoline bombs and sending Christmas shoppers fleeing as tens of thousands took to the streets during a general strike against the government's latest austerity measures.

Police repeatedly fired tear gas and flash grenades as the riots — some of the worst since Greece's debt crisis broke a year ago — escalated outside parliament and spread to other parts of the city center. At least 28 people were injured, including 23 policemen and a conservative former minister who was beaten in the street by protesters.

Angry unions held the 24-hour strike to protest new labor reforms and pay cuts as Greece struggles to reshape its economy under stringent conditions set by a $146 billion international bailout. The strike also grounded flights, closed factories and schools, disrupted hospitals and shut down train, ferry and bus services across the country.

It was the seventh general strike this year by unions appalled at a wave of austerity policies meant to pull Greece out of its worst financial crisis since World War II.

Late Tuesday, the government won a key vote in parliament on new labor reforms that include deeper pay cuts, salary caps and involuntary staff transfers at state companies. (AP)

Australian Boat Tragedy

27 asylum seekers die as vessel sinks off Christmas Island

Sydney

A wooden boat packed with asylum seekers smashed against jagged rocks in a storm off an Australian island Wednesday, flinging terrified occupants into churning waters and killing at least 27 people.

Christmas Island residents on a cliff above watched in horror as the boat — carrying about 70 people — broke apart with a crack, dumping screaming men, women and children into monstrous waves that pounded them against the rocks.

"It was just horrible. People getting crushed. Bodies, dead children, the whole thing was pretty awful," island resident Simon Prince told The Associated Press.

Officials gave no immediate word on the nationality of the victims. The Customs and Border Protection Service said in a statement Wednesday that 27 bodies had been recovered from the water. Forty-one survivors were plucked from the seas, and one person made it to shore.

PAUL KANE/GETTY IMAGES

A survivor of the Christmas Island boat wreck arrives Wednesday in Perth, Australia.

Women and children were among the dead, Western Australia state Premier Colin Barnett said in a statement.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service sent doctors to the island to treat 30 injured victims, said Joeley Pettit-Scott, the group's spokeswoman. Three patients were critically injured, two men with head injuries and one woman with blunt abdominal trauma, she said.

Acting Prime Minister Wayne Swan said the vessel was a people smuggler's boat, but it was not clear where the passengers were from.

"This incident is a tragic reminder of the danger faced by people fleeing persecution and human rights violations in their home countries, and the desperate measures they will resort to in search of safety," said Richard Towle, the United Nations Refugee Agency's regional representative. (AP)

Advancements

A VERY UNUSUAL blood transplant appears to have cured an American man living in Berlin of infection with the AIDS virus, but doctors say the approach is not practical for wide use. The man had a blood stem cell transplant in 2007 to treat leukemia. His donor had a gene mutation that confers natural resistance to HIV. Now, three years later, the recipient shows no signs of leukemia or HIV infection, according to a report in the journal Blood. (AP)

In Brief

UNITED NATIONS

U.N. Lifts Key Sanctions on Weapons Against Iraq

The U.N. Security Council gave a unanimous vote of confidence Wednesday to the significant strides Iraq has taken by lifting 19-year-old sanctions on weapons and civilian nuclear power. (AP)

BAIKONUR, KAZAKHSTAN

Soyuz Crew Blasts Off On Space Station Mission

Astronauts from the U.S., Russia and Italy blasted off into the darkness early Thursday, lighting up the chilly plains of Kazakhstan with their Soyuz spacecraft as they began a mission to the International Space Station. (AP)

MOSCOW

1,000 Detained in Russia To Stop Ethnic Clashes

Fearing more clashes between racist hooligans and mostly Muslim ethnic minorities, police detained more than 1,000 people in Moscow and several other Russian cities Wednesday, after weekend rioting in the capital left dozens injured. Hundreds of riot police outside the Kievsky station in central Moscow hauled into police vans mostly young men and teenagers who were shouting racist slogans and raising their hands in Nazi salutes. Officers confiscated an arsenal of weapons, including traumatic guns, knives and metal bars, police spokesman Viktor Biryukov said. (AP)

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Metro Is Short on Drivers

Agency acknowledges it needs to fill hundreds of jobs to keep operating

Metro has a critical shortage of hundreds of bus drivers needed not only to operate buses but also to fill vacancies in the ranks of train operators and rail station managers, and it will take at least two years to close the gap, senior Metro officials said.

The scramble to find bus drivers to keep the transit agency running is leading Metro to spend 50 percent more than its goal in overtime for bus drivers, the officials said.

Metro needs to increase its pool of bus operators to fill more than 210 vacancies — 91 bus operators, 62 train operators and 61 station managers — said Jack Requa, Metro's assistant general manager of bus services.

MARVIN JOSEPH/TWP

Metro needs to fill 210 job vacancies for bus operators, train operators and station managers.

Bus operators are required to fill vacancies in the ranks of rail operators and station managers, making the recruiting burden heavier, said Requa.

Metro has about 2,440 positions for bus operators, 560 for train operators and 500 for station managers.

The shortfall of drivers is only one of several problems facing Metro's bus service, the sixth largest in the United States, with about 1,500 buses and an average weekday ridership of more than 400,000.

"We have a huge deficit," Metro Interim General Manager Richard Sarles told a meeting of Metro's board of directors in October.

"If we don't take care of that bubble, we will not have bus drivers to drive the buses," Sarles said. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

METRO PULSE

What's your favorite piece of clothing when it gets cold?

"I've had this hat for years. I bought it when I cut my hair short and I wanted something over my ears. Now I might forget my gloves or a good coat, but I never forget this hat."

Valerie Wimberly, SUITLAND

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Local

STEVE HELBER/AP

UVa. students hold a vigil for slain lacrosse player Yeardley Love on campus May 5.

Judge Mulls Love Records' Release

Relevance of medical files of slain UVa. student in question

Charlottesville, Va.

A Charlottesville judge ruled Wednesday morning that the medical records of Yeardley Love, a former University of Virginia women's lacrosse player who was slain in May, will remain sealed until he reviews them and determines whether they are relevant.

Attorneys for George Huguely, the former UVa. men's lacrosse player who has been charged with first degree murder in Love's death, are seeking Love's medical records. They have requested records from the university's department of student health and athletic department, as well as from the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad, with the hope of challenging the official cause of death. Medical examiner William Gormley ruled that Love, 22, of Cockeysville, Md., died of blunt force injury to the head.

Commonwealth's Attorney Dave Chapman opposed the release of Love's medical records, saying it would allow the defense to go on a "fishing expedition" into her health history. Love's mother, Sharon, submitted a letter to the court opposing the release.

Huguely, 22, of Chevy Chase, waived his right to appear in court Wednesday. He remains in a Charlottesville jail cell. A preliminary hearing in his case is scheduled for Jan. 21. **STEVE YANDA (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 15

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3 8-6-9
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.) 9-0-2
Mid-day Pick 4 9-1-8-8
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.) 8-5-9-2
Match 5 (Tues.) 5-13-17-28-29 (25)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3 1-3-7
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.) 1-2-3
Mid-day Pick 4 0-0-7-0
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.) 7-6-9-8
Mid-day Cash 5 2-5-15-28-34
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.) 12-16-23-31-34

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers 9-7-6
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.) 6-3-9
Mid-day DC 4 9-5-8-0
Evening DC 4 (Tues.) 8-2-0-1
Mid-day D.C. Five 0-5-8-6-5
Evening D.C. Five (Tues.) 6-3-3-4-9

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Local

Despite Cold, Bikeshare Still Hot

Area program going strong amid glacial temps across the city

Washington

Bikesharing programs in many other cities shut down for the winter, but Arlington and the District's Capital Bikeshare is still gaining steam, despite frigid temperatures.

As many as 72 bikes were out at one time Tuesday morning, and 40 were in use at 4:30 p.m. When The Washington Post checked in on relatively balmy Oct. 13, those numbers were 41 people at the peak of the morning commute and 29 in use at 2 p.m. That's an increase of nearly 100 percent — on a day with a low of 26 degrees. That's according to a fun and useful map from London's Oliver O'Brien, at Oobrien.com, where you can watch as people pick up bikes on Capitol Hill, Southeast and elsewhere, and drop them off downtown and along the 16th Street corridor, among other places.

MARK GAIL/TWP

Ridership on Capital Bikeshare of Arlington and D.C. has not dropped off in the winter.

The numbers are a sure sign of enthusiasm for the program — or that riders haven't quite adjusted to rapid changes in the weather.

According to census data, the number of Washington residents who commute to work by bicycle has nearly doubled, to 2.2 percent, in the past 10 years. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

False Alarm: Metro's Pentagon station reopened Wednesday after officials determined a suspicious package was a blinking Christmas ornament. Pentagon police spokesman Chris Layman says officials gave the all-clear Wednesday morning after determining that the item found in the station was an ornament. "Someone spotted some lights that were blinking in a trash can," Layman said. "We took it seriously." (AP)

D.C. Police Seize 50 Lbs. of Meth From Drug Gang

Washington

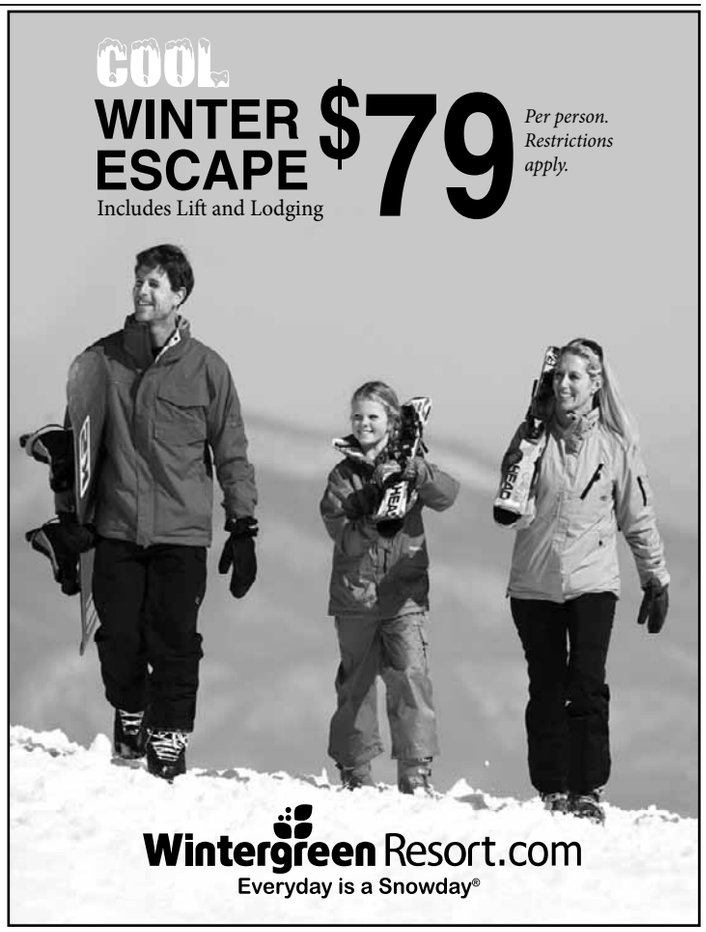
Authorities say they have thwarted a dangerous Mexican drug cartel from moving into the nation's capital.

Prosecutors in Washington have indicted nine illegal immigrants for conspiring to sell more than 50 pounds of crystal meth.

At a news conference Wednesday, D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier said the amount of crystal meth seized was larger than any other seizure in Washington or Virginia.

The largest previous seizure was about 2 pounds.

Lanier said the undercover operation was especially dangerous, but authorities wanted to prevent the Mexican cartel from gaining a foothold in the region. (AP)



SUBHANKAR BANERJEE/AP

A "world that's already long gone." A polar bear roams the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

A Changing Climate

Studies show hope isn't lost for polar bears in a warming world

Anchorage, Alaska

Two groups of scientists are suggesting a sliver of hope for the future of polar bears in a warming world.

A study published online Wednesday rejects the often used concept of a "tipping point," or point of no return, when it comes to sea ice and the big bear that has become the symbol of climate change woes. The study optimistically suggests that if the world dramatically changed its steadily increasing emissions of greenhouse gases, a total loss of critical summer sea ice for the bears could be averted.

Another research group projects that even if global warming doesn't slow — a more likely near-future scenario — a thin, icy refuge for the bears would still remain between Greenland and Canada.

A grim future for polar bears is one of the most tangible and poignant outcomes of global warming.

Network Questions Global Warming

Fox News Channel's top Washington editor ordered the network's reporters to couple any mention of global climate change with skepticism about the data underlying such a scientific conclusion, according to an e-mail released by a liberal media-watchdog group Wednesday.

Media Matters for America said the e-mail from Bill Sammon called into question the network's impartiality on climate change. In the e-mail, Sammon asked his staff to "refrain from asserting that the planet has warmed (or cooled) in any given period without IMMEDIATELY pointing out that such theories are based upon data that critics have called into question." (TWP)

"Conserving polar bears appears to be largely a matter of curbing temperature rise. We also do realize this will take some considerable effort to do so."

— **STEVEN AMSTRUP,** WHOSE REPORT IN NATURE FINDS HOPE FOR THE SPECIES.

Four years ago, federal researchers reported that two-thirds of the world's polar bear habitat could vanish by mid-century. Other experts foresee an irreversible ice-free Arctic in the next few years.

The new study challenging the idea of a tipping point says rapid ice loss could still happen, but there's a chance that the threatened bears aren't doomed. "The problem is not irreversible," said lead author Steven Amstrup, the former senior polar bear scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Alaska.

His research, published in Nature, shows there's a steady relationship between greenhouse gas emissions, sea ice and polar bear habitat. As emissions rise, sea ice and polar bear habitat decline. But unlike previous research, there's no drop-off tipping point in Amstrup's models. Essentially, until all sea ice is gone permanently in the summer, there is still a chance to prevent the worst-case scenario, if global warming is stopped in time, Amstrup's research shows.

But study co-author Eric DeWeaver and Amstrup agree the polar bear is in deep trouble if emissions continue to rise as they are doing now.

A second study was to be presented Thursday at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco. That research considers a future in which global warming continues at the same pace.

And it shows that a belt from the northern archipelago of Canada to the northern tip of Greenland will likely still have ice because of various winds and currents. The sea ice forms off Siberia in an area that's called "the ice factory" and is blown to this belt, which is like an "ice cube tray," said Robert Newton of Columbia University.

That "sea ice refuge" will be good for polar bears and should continue for decades to come, maybe even into the next century, he said. (AP)

Reactions

Too Optimistic?

Some experts called Steven Amstrup's findings on polar bears too optimistic, but said his computer models made sense. "I wouldn't say that we can rule out a tipping point, but it does show that a tipping point isn't inevitable," said Walt Meier, a senior scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colo.

Time has already run out, said Henry Jacoby, a management professor at MIT and founder of its MIT Global Change Joint Program. Jacoby examined the computer models Amstrup used in his paper and said it is based on a "world that's already long gone." The two scenarios of emission reductions are points that the world has already passed or will pass in the next few years, Jacoby said.

After the global recession led to a one-year dip in carbon dioxide emissions, they are soaring again, according to a recent study. And vague international agreements made in Cancun last week and in Copenhagen last year don't do enough, Jacoby said. "Even given the pledges on the table, we don't come close to what these guys use in their hopeful scenario," he said. (AP)

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Uniform Optimism

Werth sees a bright future wearing a Nationals jersey

The Nationals

Jayson Werth is in it for the long haul with the Washington Nationals.

The right fielder's $126 million, seven-year contract with Washington includes a full no-trade clause, and an optimistic-sounding Werth repeatedly spoke Wednesday about helping turn the team around. He will be 38 when this contract ends, and he mentioned playing into his 40s.

With his signature scraggly beard gone, replaced by a tiny patch under his lower lip, Werth waited all of 15 seconds into his opening statement during an introductory news conference at Nationals Park to say he's "on board for many winning seasons ahead." In answer to the last question, he vowed, "It's going to be a great seven years, and we're going to surprise a lot of people."

In between, with agent Scott Boras sitting to his left, Werth talked about a "grittiness" and "will to win" he noticed while playing against Washington as a member of the NL East rival Philadelphia Phillies the past four seasons. In each of those years, Philadelphia won the division; Washington has finished in last place the past three.

"I've been to the postseason a lot the past few years, and that's what it's all about," Werth said.

It was lost on no one that his former team held a news conference Wednesday, too — to announce its signing of left-hander Cliff Lee to a $120 million, five-year contract. Lee and Werth were teammates on the 2009 Phillies and are pals.

When asked about Lee's rejoining Philadelphia, Werth said: "They got their boy back, I guess, and that's fine. I think that's good. I like that. If you want to be the best, you've got to beat the best. They make their plays, and we're going to make ours."

Werth, who helped the Phillies win the 2008 World Series, hit .296 in 2010, with an NL-high 46 doubles, along with 27 homers and 85 RBI. He had career bests of 36 homers and 99 RBI in 2009.

Manager Jim Riggleman figures Werth occasionally will play center field and will bat third or fourth; last season, third baseman Ryan Zimmerman usually was in the No. 3 spot, followed by now-departed first baseman Adam Dunn.

"We got a guy here who can hit 30-plus home runs, drive in 100 runs, play Gold Glove defense, steal you 20 bases, lead in the clubhouse and be a middle-of-the-lineup hitter. The bigger the game, the better he's played," general manager Mike Rizzo said. "He brings an edge to the ballclub." (AP)

JOHN MCDONNELL/TWP

With GM Mike Rizzo in the background, Jayson Werth tries on his Nationals shirt and cap for the first time Wednesday.

A 2011 Nationals Starting Lineup?

- CF Nyjer Morgan
- SS Ian Desmond
- 3B Ryan Zimmerman
- RF Jason Werth
- 1B Adam LaRoche*
- LF Josh Willingham
- 2B Danny Espinosa
- C Ivan Rodriguez
- 2B Jordan Zimmermann

* PROJECTED FREE-AGENT SIGNING

"I felt good chances of this organization winning over the course of my contract, and that was very important to me."

— **JAYSON WERTH,** WHO SAID THE YOUNG TALENT IN THE NATS ORGANIZATION IS "IMMENSE."

Clauses

No Trade for Werth

Perhaps the most interesting piece of new information from the Jayson Werth signing, confirmed by agent Scott Boras, is that General Manager Mike Rizzo relented on his general philosophy and included a full no-trade clause in Werth's seven-year, $126 million contract, a stipulation Werth felt was crucial to come to Washington. Some teams have a strict policy against them, which the Nationals can no longer claim in their negotiations with future free agents. Rizzo made clear, though, how difficult it was to give one to Werth and that he will not make a habit of handing them out. (TWP)

In Brief

D.C. UNITED

United Acquires Wolff

D.C. United claimed former U.S. national team forward Josh Wolff with the first overall pick in the second stage of the MLS re-entry draft Wednesday. He signed a one-year contract with a club-held option in 2012, United GM Dave Kasper said. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

THE WIZARDS

Yi Out With MCL Sprain

Yi Jianlian may have to wait until March 20 to get his first shot against his former team, the New Jersey Nets. Yi will stay behind as the team hopes to end a 12-game road losing streak against the Nets on Thursday after an MRI revealed that he has a sprained right medial collateral ligament. Yi said he would likely miss the next two to four weeks. (TWP)

PRO FOOTBALL

Snow Shovelers Needed To Clear Minnesota Field

The University of Minnesota put out a call Wednesday for fans and volunteers willing to shovel snow at TCF Bank Stadium to get it ready to host the Vikings and Bears next week in place of the snow-damaged Metrodome. The Vikings decided to hold Monday night's NFC North game at the Gophers' outdoor stadium after inspectors said there wasn't enough time to repair the dome's tattered and deflated roof. (AP)

Hearsay

"It's plenty of money. When you hit a certain point, enough's enough."

— **CLIFF LEE,** ON TAKING $30 MILLION LESS THAN THE YANKEES OFFERED TO SIGN A FIVE-YEAR, $120 MILLION WITH THE PHILLIES, WHO INTRODUCED THE FREE-AGENT PITCHER ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

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McNabb Not Worried About His Job Status

1 p.m.
Sunday | Fox

The Redskins

Redskins quarterback Donovan McNabb said Wednesday he can't and won't think about reports, rumors and innuendo that coach Mike Shanahan and offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan have been preparing backup Rex Grossman to replace him, and that he considers the final three games of the season important for Washington's offensive development.

"I can't afford to," McNabb said when asked about reports, particularly by Fox's Jay Glazer, that the Redskins might replace him. "If I don't get that from the guy who makes the decisions, then I don't focus on it. There's been reports and sources saying all throughout the last couple years of my career. So, I think if I spent too much time focusing on that, I wouldn't focus on the task at hand."

JOHN MVDONNELL/TWP

QB Donovan McNabb isn't focusing on whether he'll be sacked by the Redskins.

McNabb said he had no doubt that he would start Sunday at Dallas, what would be his 14th start of the year. McNabb has played in all 16 games just once in the last six years. "I feel great," he said.

He also continued to dismiss the idea that Grossman — who infamously came in with 1 minute, 50 seconds remaining in the Redskins' loss at Detroit on Oct. 31 — took more reps in practice last week, a supposed indication that there was an increased chance McNabb could be benched. "It wasn't too much different than what we've been doing," McNabb said. "Maybe one rep, two reps. It's not an issue."

BARRY SVRLUGA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Hearsay

"We are a product of what the coaches are coaching us throughout the course of the week."

— **TERRELL OWENS,** BLAMING THE BENGALS' COACHING STAFF FOR CINCINNATI'S DISMAL 2-11 SEASON.

Gano Still Kickin' With Redskins

The Redskins

Placekicker Graham Gano has retained his job despite struggling throughout the season on field-goal attempts and missing two short ones in Sunday's 17-16 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Washington released veteran punter and holder Hunter Smith after his role in the costly botched extra-point attempt.

After auditioning punters and placekickers Tuesday, the Redskins determined that Gano was still their best option. They brought back punter and holder Sam Paulescu, who was with them for one game last season.

Paulescu is mechanically sound and quick, but he doesn't provide long punts consistently, said a person who has reviewed his game tape. He's considered a "fill-in guy," so add punter to the Redskins' long list of offseason personnel needs.

Gano, 23, has missed 10 field-goal attempts. He received another reprieve, however, because he's young, has a strong leg, and there was no one better out there, according to a person familiar with the situation. Gano has been in the league for about 370 days, and the Redskins believe he has a bright future. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

TV Lineup

WIZARDS (7 P.M., CSN) Either the Wizards' five-game skid or the Nets' eight-game slide will end Thursday in New Jersey.

PRO FOOTBALL (8 P.M., NFL) The San Diego Chargers need a win over the San Francisco 49ers to stay in the hunt for the AFC West.

PRO BASKETBALL (8:15 P.M., 10:30 P.M.) The Boston Celtics host the Atlanta Hawks, and then the NBA-best San Antonio Spurs take on the Denver Nuggets.

VOLLEYBALL (7 P.M., 9:30 P.M., ESPN2) Penn State, seeking a fourth-straight title, takes on Texas, and California faces USC in the NCAA Women's Final Four.

PREP BASKETBALL (7 P.M., 9 P.M., ESPN) Lew Wallace (Ind.) plays Simeon (Ill.), and Findlay Prep (Nev.) tips off against Yates (Texas).

Volunteers Needed
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(The Flu)

Doctors at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health in the Department of Health and Human Services are conducting a research study that will look at aspects of influenza infection (the Flu). We are seeking male and female volunteers older than 2 years of age for this research study.

In order to participate, volunteers need to be suspected of having influenza or have a positive clinical diagnostic test for influenza within the past 2 months and must be able to safely undergo blood draws as well as nasal washes.

The date you were diagnosed with influenza (the Flu) will determine your eligibility for the study. There will be no cost to you, and volunteers will be compensated for their participation.

Study visits will occur at the NIH Clinical Center. You will be asked questions, have a physical exam, and have nasal secretions and/or blood collected. Depending on when you were diagnosed with influenza (the Flu), we may ask you to come in for 2–7 visits over a 1-month period.

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19/10/2010

Sports

Jets Coach Trips Into More Trouble

Suspension becomes indefinite as team investigates incident

Pro Football

The New York Jets suspended assistant coach Sal Alosi indefinitely Wednesday after they discovered he ordered five inactive players to form a wall along the sideline for a punt return, during which he tripped a Miami Dolphins player.

General Manager Mike Tannenbaum said Wednesday that Alosi, the team's strength and conditioning coach, did not initially acknowledge that he ordered players to stand that way during the investigation Monday.

"As we continued our investigation, we discovered some new information," Tannenbaum said in a conference call from the NFL owners meetings in Dallas, "and the players at the Miami game were instructed by Sal to stand where they were to force the gunner in the game to run around them."

Tannenbaum said he met with Ray Anderson, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations, on Wednesday, and the league supported the Jets' decision. Tannenbaum added that the NFL was also looking into the incident.

Tannenbaum did not rule out the possibility that Alosi will be fired. "All options are on the table," he said. (AP)

Backstory

The Jets suspended assistant coach Sal Alosi for the season without pay Monday and fined him an additional $25,000 after he stuck out a knee and tripped Miami's Nolan Carroll, who was covering a punt in the third quarter of the Dolphins' 10-6 win Sunday. He added that coach Rex Ryan and special teams coordinator Mike Westhoff were not involved. (AP)

Must Be Puppy Love

Michael Vick has an idea for rehabilitating his image with the public two years after being released from prison for his role in a dog-fighting ring — and it has nothing to do with his actions on the football field. Vick says he wants to get a pet dog "to show people I genuinely care," he said in an interview with NBC News and excerpted by the New York Post. (EXPRESS)

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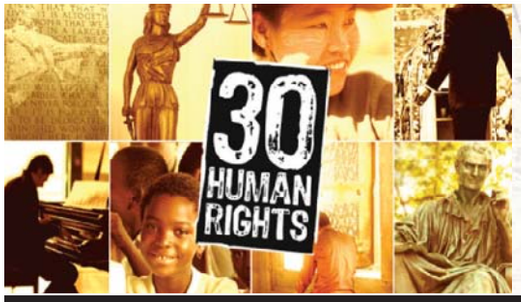

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on the spot

CHRIS CARROLL

Susan Hellauer

A CAPPELLA SINGER, ANONYMOUS 4 QUARTET

THE WOMEN of Anonymous 4 don't need instruments to conjure heavenly sounds from medieval music. Overseeing the 25-year-old a cappella quartet's sojourns into ancient sounds is musicologist Susan Hellauer, pictured far left, who spoke with Express about the group's upcoming Kennedy Center gig, "Noel."

"Our audience has always had a degree of younger people. We think it may be the a cappella thing that's really alive on college campuses."

How did you put together the D.C. event's program?

It was inspired by a commercial thing — our recording company made a box set, "Noel," out of four of our Christmas CDs: "Legends of St. Nicholas," "On Yoolis Night," "Wolcum Yule" and "A Star in the East."

From what time periods do the songs originate?

About the 12th century through now. The early CDs, like "On Yoolis Night," have medieval chants from the 12th century. "Wolcum Yule" has music from the late 20th century on it as well.

Is there an unexpected piece of music you unearthed you'll perform?

I think the most surprising music on this program is from the Hungarian repertoire. There is a hymn in Hungarian, and it was surprising we were able to learn it and pronounce Hungarian.

Have you noticed any change in audience demographics since Ben Folds' "University A Cappella!" CD came out?

Our audience has always had a degree of younger people. We think it may be the a cappella thing that's really alive on college campuses. And "Glee" has really increased that interest as well — even though they're all Auto-Tuned from here to there. TONY SCLAFANI

• Kennedy Center, Terrace Theater, 2700 F St. NW; Thu., 7:30 p.m., $38; 202-467-4600, Kennedy-center.org. (Foggy Bottom)

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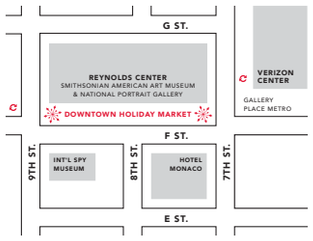

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The Preservation Hall Jazz Band makes it a funky little holiday

Music

When the Preservation Hall Jazz Band swings into town for its Creole Christmas concerts, don't look for glitz and pageantry.

"I don't want people to come to our show expecting the Rockettes," says Ben Jaffe, the band's director and tuba player. "The way we celebrate the holiday season in New Orleans is with gospel and with joyous music — and a couple of holiday songs sprinkled here and there for seasoning. It's not a Christmas revue. Santa Claus is not gonna drop from the chimney."

SHANNON BRINKMAN

The Preservation Hall Jazz Band brings a New Orleans flavor to seasonal songs.

Jaffe says both the band's holiday shows and regular set lists are composed of works that "have some significance to the band. We try to choose songs that have something from our childhood or something from the band's past."

For example, one of the songs the band added to its repertoire this year, "Happy Holidays," dates back to clarinetist Charlie Gabriel's days as a Catholic school student.

"He'll be 79 this year," explains Jaffe. "He had this memory of being in church as a child and one of the nuns teaching him the song. What a great story and a great memory — to have a song that you learned 70 years ago in New Orleans and to bring it back again." TONY SCLAFANI

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Matzo Ball 2010, Cafe Asia, Dec. 24, $30; Ticketweb.com.

Septime Webre's "The Nutcracker," Warner Theatre, through Dec. 26, $43.20-$106; 800-431-3462.

"A Christmas Carol," Ford's Theatre, through Jan. 2, $49.75-$63.05; 202-397-7328.

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Michele Angelini, tenor
Joan Martín-Royo, baritone
The University of Maryland Concert Choir,
Edward Maclary, Director

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The Pietasters w/ HR • Copstabber • The Shifters ..... Sa 8
Justin Jones and The Driving Rain
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Virginia Coalition *Early Show! 6pm Doors* ..... Sa 15
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the B-52's ..... W 19
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Yo La Tengo w/ William Tyler ..... F 21
Dr. Dog w/ The Head and The Heart
Reduced-price two-night tickets available. ..... F 28 & Sa 29
Bach2Rock *Matinee Show! 12 Noon Doors* ..... Sa 29 & Su 30
Lissie w/ Dylan LeBlanc ..... Su 30
mtvU FRESHMAN FIVE AND SPIN Present
Best Coast & Wavves w/ No Joy ..... M 31

FEBRUARY

Girl Talk ..... Tu 1 & W 2
Tea Leaf Green ..... F 4
Chromeo w/ MNDR & The Suzan ..... Sa 5

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JULIAN VANKIM

Tulle to the World

In the traditional version of "The Nutcracker," little Clara's godfather brings her a toy nutcracker doll that she finds enchanting — never mind that a nutcracker is clearly not that fun a gift. The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington has filled this plot hole for our modern times with "Men in Tights: A Pink Nutcracker," which reimagines Tchaikovsky's ballet as a gay love story. "It's fun and campy and ... pink," says director and choreographer Craig Cipollini. The program is split into two parts: First, 200-plus members of the GMCW will perform choral arrangements of classic carols, accompanied by a full orchestra and a full-size organ. Then, the guys will sing the story of young Clarence, who receives a hunky prince for Christmas (much better than a crusty old nutcracker) and promptly gets into it with his brother, Fritz, who also has his eyes on the prize. Arguing, jealousy and a whole lot of tulle: Just like real Christmas.

● *Lisner Auditorium, George Washington University, 730 21st St. NW; Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 3 & 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m., $20-$50; 202-293-1548, Gmcw.org. (Foggy Bottom)*

COURTESY KINSEY SICKS

Broad Comedy

The Christmas story — with its homeless, pregnant teenage mother who no one wanted to help — is really quite sad. Good thing the "ladies" of the Kinsey Sicks take it a step further with the threat of manger foreclosure in "Oy Vey in a Manger," a campy drag stage show sure to at least mildly offend everyone who attends. Big mouths, glitter, puns and four-part harmonies bring the holiday spirit a shot of harsh reality. "O Come Ye Unfaithful"? Sounds like the aftermath of an office party. "Soylent Night"? Christmas comes for cannibals, too.

● *Theater J, 1529 16th St. NW; opens Sat., through Jan. 2, $15-$60; 202-518-9400, Kinseysicks.com. (Dupont Circle)*

TED VAN PELT/FLICKR

Merry Kix-Mas

Christmas in Baltimore can be enjoyed on many levels. There's the refined Inner Harbor, with its tasteful lighted boats and "Don't Bother Me, I'm Crabby" stocking stuffers. For optimum John Waters-spotting opportunities, there's Hampden's "Miracle on 34th Street," where a block of rowhouses keeps BG&E in business for another year with 50,000 blazing watts of twinkling lights. But for the true Maryland believers, hon, there is Kix-Mas. Kix, that classic band of high hair and even higher vocal range, brings heavy metal home for the holidays at Ram's Head Live. Lead screamer Steve Whiteman brought the subtle shadings of the Mur-lun accent to millions with 1988's "Blow My Fuse," which went platinum and put Kix on bills with RATT and Britny Fox. They should have been the next Warrant! But they were still heroes locally, playing out pretty much every single weekend for 10 years, and giving heshers a reason to cling to our Aqua Net even as the world changed around us. So, expect a family reunion of sorts when Kix blows up Christmas on Saturday.

● *Rams Head Live!, 20 Market Place, Baltimore; Sat., 8 p.m., $25; 410-244-1311, Ramsheadlive.com.*

WHOA TANNENBAUM

The winter holidays are all about tradition. But who gets to decide what that even means? You've been good all year long. Santa won't put you on the "naughty" list for trying something a little different this weekend. What could be more festive than the Civil War? Giant, glaring creatures chiseled from slabs of ice, you say? Touché. Venture into uncharted holiday territory with all the tweaked takes on Christmas that D.C. has to offer.

SHAUNA MILLER, HOLLY J. MORRIS, KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY AND FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

MARK GAIL/TWP

The Land of Ice and Snow

The awesomely bizarre experience that is Ice! (don't forget the exclamation point!) at the Gaylord National Harbor begins with a borrowed parka. No, you don't know where it's been, and, yes, it makes you look fat. But you'll need it as you wander through a mind-bending representation of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" carved entirely from ice — in so much detail you can see the hairs in Cindy Lou Who's braids. Along the way, discover what vodka feels like on Spring Break: Take a spin down the ice luge (or the less x-treme children's slide). The tour concludes with a slowly melting nativity scene. Not into Jesus? Reflect instead on the enormous, nondenominational tree made of Peeps, right off the indoor skating rink.

● *Gaylord National Harbor, 201 Waterfront St., National Harbor, Md.; through Jan. 9, $24; 301-965-4000, Gaylordhotels.com.*

Keeping Christmas Civil

Kick off 2011 — when the D.C. area goes wild with events commemorating the 150th anniversary of a bloody, divisive conflict — at Leesylvania State Park's Civil War Christmas, featuring a historically accurate Santa. The Jolly One's patriotic, star-bedecked garb is based on an 1863 Harper's Weekly drawing by Thomas Nast, in which he delivers socks and other goodies to soldiers — who actually did desperately want socks. Costumed interpreters will be on hand to chat about the 1860s, period music will be played, and light refreshments (including some that aren't hardtack) will be served. Children can make garlands out of cranberries and popcorn, and tree ornaments from other ingredients from our primitive pre-tinsel past. This is the "Little Women" Civil War (vaguely bad and far away), not the Ken Burns version, so, please, don't ask Santa whether the South will rise again or whether it was ultimately all the cotton gin's fault.

● *Leesylvania's Visitor Center, 2001 Daniel K. Ludwig Drive, Woodbridge, Va.; Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; $2 per person or $6 per family; 703-583-6904, Dcr.virginia.gov.*

The Blues, One Day at a Time

Justin Townes Earle tries to face down his demons and those of his musical namesakes

Music

Everything seemed to be right on track for country singer Justin Townes Earle: He'd released a much-anticipated fourth album, "Harlem River Blues," earlier this year and was poised for a lengthy nationwide tour this fall.

Then, in September, Earle got drunk and got into a fight after a performance in Indianapolis. The subsequent trips to jail, rehab and court forced him to postpone his tour.

The singer started using and boozing as a teenager, so his newfound clean streak is a major life change. "Sobriety is an everyday struggle," says Earle. "I will never claim to have taken my last drink or drug. I must admit that I like it too much to ever completely turn my back on it."

The specter of substance abuse has always loomed in Earle's life: Both of his namesakes, '70s country-rocker Townes Van Zandt and his own father, Steve Earle, battled addiction.

"When I was young, the last thing I wanted to be was a musician," he says. "Let's face it: Neither Townes nor my father led easy lives."

Earle's arrest may have detoured his tour plans, but it hasn't seemed to dim audiences' interest in the new material. Earle says he's surprised that this album has garnered so much attention. "I didn't approach 'Harlem River' any differently than I did previous records," he says. "We recorded it over five days at the studio, and I have no clue what makes it more accessible."

JOSHUA BLACK WILKINS

A newly sober Justin Townes Earle is forging ahead with tour plans for his new disc.

"When I was young, the last thing I wanted to be was a musician. Let's face it: Neither Townes [Van Zandt] nor my father led easy lives."

For now, Earle seems fixed on the work ahead on his rescheduled tour. "I have always managed — through drugs, alcohol and sobriety — to keep my focus on what's important, which is the live show," he says. "And, as the cliché goes, one day at a time."

CATHERINE LEWIS

● *9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; with Jessica Lea Mayfield; Sun., 7 p.m., $20; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)*

A Family That Plays Together

A former educator finds a new calling with her musical clan

Music

Despite her musical pedigree, Lucy Wainwright Roche didn't grow up wanting to be a folk singer. Instead, she chose to be an educator, and spent two years in New York City teaching elementary school.

That's where music found her. She began writing songs again, an activity she hadn't pursued since she was a teenager. She took her inspiration from the parents of the kids in her class.

"My songs had a lot of divorce and kitchen remodeling," she jokes. "I wasn't experiencing any of it, but I was witnessing it in the families I was getting to know."

Pretty soon, the siren song of the family business had grown too loud to ignore. The 29 year-old loved teaching but longed to write, record and tour.

COURTESY LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE

Lucy Wainwright Roche, half-sister of Rufus Wainwright, comes from musical stock.

"These two jobs don't really go that well together," she says. "It was time to give music a try, but it was a very hard decision."

Her decision surprised her family — which is itself surprising, given that they are the Wainwrights and the Roches: father Loudon Wainwright; half-siblings Rufus and Martha Wainwright; and mother Suzzy Roche, one-third of the renowned folk-harmony group the Roches. But Roche had always been the shy kid. "I was always the one who didn't want to get onstage," she says, "but that has changed a lot."

Roche says they've all been very supportive of her efforts, and she has supported them, too — as an opening act. And touring with Rufus Wainwright and the Roches quickly rid her of her shyness.

"At some point, I decided that all I had to do was be normal, as if I was just having dinner with people," she says.

After two well-received EPs that drew a small but loyal audience, Roche released her first full-length album — appropriately titled "Lucy" — in October, full of delicate harmonies and closely observed songs about loss, change and touring.

"There are definitely a lot of travel themes, which comes from just being on the road for the past few years," she explains. "It seeped into so many corners of the record."

STEPHEN M. DEUSNER

● *Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; with the Roches; Fri., 7:30 p.m., $35; 703-549-7500.*

Chocolate & Cheese

COURTESY WEEN

DEAR GENE WEEN: Can we ever forgive you for the earworm terror that was 1992's "Push th' Little Daisies (and Make 'em Come Up)"? That song still resurfaces every time we see so much as a black-eyed Susan. Beyond the '90s, Ween has amassed a cultishly devoted, tape-trading following, so prepare to be out-nerded when Gene Ween, right, with co-Weenie Dean Ween, plays the Black Cat Friday with D.C.'s own Blackberry Belles.

JOEL BARHAMAND

Don't try this at home: Albert Cadabra solves his sinus problems once and for all.

Albert Cadabra Uses His Head

Performers hammer home the shock with Skullduggery & Skin

Performance

Magician Albert Cadabra — aka the Great Deceiver — wants you to walk out of his performances feeling like you know him. His stand-up routines are rooted in his past as a high-school theater geek. His beloved pet appears as Ruby the Wonder Dog, jumping through flaming hoops (he wanted to see her more often, he says). When he hammers spikes into his face or eats razor blades, the audience *cares*.

Cadabra's trademark mix of humor, illusion and pain will be on display at the Skullduggery & Skin Show on Saturday at D.C.'s Red Palace. The not-so-family-friendly cabaret premiered here in 2006 at Palace of Wonders (which recently merged with the Red and the Black to create Red Palace). New York City burlesque performers Boo Boo Darlin' and Miss Coney Island will join him onstage, presumably for the "skin" portion of the evening.

For Cadabra, electrocuting himself does more than shock and horrify — it builds community. "Just going out and seeing a live show feels retro to some people these days, but we all need this basic human interaction," he says via e-mail. "It feels good especially when you are bonded with an entire theater full of people you've never met, all laughing, cheering and gasping at the same show."

Even the magic world itself is one big, happy, deviant family. "Magic is not really competitive," Cadabra says. "It's a supportive group of artists" — who don't steal: "When I put together routines I make damn sure I'm doing it like no one else has ever done it before."

That doesn't mean he wants to share his secrets with civilians, though. "The only thing we really need to worry about are the weekend magicians or the amateurs," he says. "They feel all material is up for grabs."

So, crawl out of your cave and bond over Cadabra's own bonds — the chain and shackle varieties he magically escapes. "An audience has to leave the comfort of the computer and TV and venture out in the real world to see real people performing real dangerous, sexy and hilarious acts," he says. Just don't try any of it at home. ROXANA HADADI

● *The Red Palace, 1210 H St. NE; Sat., 9 p.m., $10; 202-399-3201, Redandblackbar.com.*

Creating 'Bhutto'

Duane Baughman's new film chronicles the life of Pakistan's first female leader

Director Q&A

Benazir Bhutto made history by being elected the first female leader of a Muslim nation — twice. In his new documentary, "Bhutto," director Duane Baughman explores the effect of Bhutto's life (she was killed in 2007) on Pakistan's history while examining the nation's recent strife and its place in global politics today.

Baughman

How long after Bhutto's death did you begin working on the movie?

A few hours after she was killed, I called one of her closest friends, Mark Siegel, and said, "We've got to tell the story." Three months after she was assassinated, I was sitting in Dubai in what had been her living room with her heartbroken children and her devastated husband, and we were shooting the first scene.

FIRST RUN FEATURES

"I wouldn't have done this film if I couldn't have maintained total control myself."

As an indie filmmaker, where did you get funding?

I'm very fortunate that I've had a lot of success in my life. I wouldn't have done this film if I couldn't have maintained total control myself. I'm not a fan of Hollywood and I'm not a fan of being told what to do, so I used all my own money, and it was about $3 million.

From Condoleezza Rice to Ariana Huffington, you scored high-profile interviews for the film. Did you have any trouble getting people to talk?

The fact that this was the first major Western film to tackle a subject as complex and as strategically important as this one really helped draw people out from both sides. People wanted to say positive things about Benazir, and people wanted to say what she wasn't. My political day job [as a consultant] helped with that as well.

Was it a challenge to focus on the specifics of Bhutto's life while covering so much of Pakistan's complex history?

It is a dense thicket of fact. There were stories wrapped within stories, unsolved mysteries, unsolved murders, hijackings, family feuds, politics as blood sport — trying to tell all those stories while trying to make it entertaining and factual was absolutely one of the toughest things I've ever done. RYAN LITTLE

● *E Street Cinema, 555 11th St. NW; opens Fri., see Landmarktheaters.com for times, $10; 202-452-7672.*

Lyrical Swords

ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES

IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER a world where kung fu cinema wasn't solidly fused with hip-hop culture. Apparently, however, Chinese martial arts existed for some time before 1992 and the birth of the Wu-Tang Clan. Catch Ghostface Killah, above, and whichever other Wu-warriors are in the clan's current rotation this Sunday night at Sonar in Baltimore.

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7&8 RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER
11 Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
13 JEFFREY OSBORNE
14,15,16 eddie from ohio
17 MOTHER'S FINEST
18,19 An Acoustic Evening with Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt
21 CHELY WRIGHT with Deep River
22 Chrisette Michele
28 CHARLES ROSS' ONE MAN STAR WARS TRILOGY
29 Suzanne Westenhoefer
30 The Angela Bofill Experience narrated by ANGELA BOFILL performed by MAYSA, Grammy winner DAVE VALENTIN & The Original ANGELA BOFILL BAND
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Weekend Pass | entertainment

Looking to buy locally for holiday gifts? The Black Cat hosts D.C.'s coolest designers, record shops and vintage sellers.

YOU CAN'T BUY and sell rock 'n' roll, they told us. Which was patently untrue, of course — you must buy and sell rock 'n' roll, but overt selling of rock 'n' roll is considered crass, which is why the Hard Rock Cafe is a sign of everything wrong with our culture, or at least a sign of everything that embarrasses us about our culture. So, when we encourage attendance at a rock 'n' roll garage sale — in this case, the Rock 'n' Shop at the Black Cat — rest assured that this particular commodification of that most sacred of American art forms is not slick or clueless, and will not brainwash you into buying a Hardcore Hamburger and a side of Fugazi Fries.

Instead, it's a slightly grimy junk sale piled up inside the main hall of D.C.'s friendliest club, except it's not junk, but records and crafts from 31 local stores and artists. There will be plenty of vinyl up for grabs — the Red Onion, Som and Smash labels will be there — and numerous gift options for those in your life who don't own turntables. Craft fair regulars such as Tigerflight, Wrong Tree Studio and Kitten Rocks Well — known respectively for decorative stuffed animals, creative pet items and stationery sets — will be on hand. Even the most hardcore collector may go home with something cute and/or cuddly. **FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)**

● *Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Sun., 8 p.m., free; 202-667-4490, Blackcatdc.com. (U St.-Cardozo)*

EILEEN COLTON

You Had to Be There

When you know your friend loves rock music but don't have an intimate knowledge of his or her record collection, you can still be pretty sure he or she doesn't have a print of Patti Smith mid-growl. Eileen Colton sells prints of photos she snapped at classic rock shows in the 1970s and 1980s — Springsteen, Smith, Lou Reed, the Ramones and other legends. (They run $50 for small prints, $7.50 for refrigerator magnets.) In the bargain, you can press her for fond memories of concerts past. "I'm a little older," she says. "But I quote Lou Reed: 'Deep down inside I've got a rock 'n' roll heart.'"

EILEEN COLTON

Every Day I Write the Book

Rania Hassan, aka Gosh Darn Knit, makes notebooks — well, she buys the notebooks and then personalizes them with screen-printed cover illustrations on basic Moleskines ($12-$16). She's been selling at the Rock 'n' Shop for several years: "You don't really hear a lot about it, but at the same time everyone knows about it," she says. Hassan loves the variety of the craft-fair-meets-record-store and the customers it attracts. "It's a really creative crowd, so that works perfectly for me. Creative people always need a place to record their thoughts and draw things out."

take five

20TH CENTURY FOX

Georgie Henley and a lion ponder surreality in "The Chronicles of Narnia."

1 The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of The Dawn Treader
There's heavy stuff if you're looking for it in director Michael Apted's "Narnia." But it doesn't spoil the great, great fun to be had in this film if you're not.

2 The Tourist
The high wattage of stars Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie casts this film in a spotlight that would be unflattering for most movies — least of all an insubstantial, tension-free thriller like this.

3 Tangled
Rapunzel's home life may be a study in passive-aggressive dysfunction, but for the most part, "Tangled" is zippy and engaging, especially when the wide-eyed heroine joins forces with cocky bandit Flynn.

4 Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows
This film can't be anything but unsatisfying. As the first part of the last movie in a franchise that has taken on almost theological meaning for a generation of readers and filmgoers, it's meant to leave audiences wanting more.

5 Unstoppable
Director Tony Scott achieves something close to the action movie in its ideal form with "Unstoppable," which can be summed up thusly: Train out of control! Must stop train!

FILM REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE GOINGOUTGUIDE.COM/MOVIES.

Communication Breakdown

Colin Firth discusses the subtleties of his stutter for the film 'The King's Speech'

Actor Q&A

To say Colin Firth's performance in "The King's Speech" is generating Oscar buzz is like saying a cattle prod gives a little poke. The film examines the relationship between George VI (Firth), who struggled with a profound stutter, and Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), his unorthodox speech coach. Firth talked to Express about the psychology of stuttering, the burdens of power and one very heavy costume.

LAURIE SPARHAM

Colin Firth and Helena Bonham Carter star in the new film "The King's Speech."

What was the biggest challenge in playing a character with a stutter?
It has very inappropriately been used for comedy, probably far too much. And that would have killed us, if it was something people felt tempted to mock, and it would have killed us if people had found it so painful to listen to that they didn't want to watch the movie.

How much of the character's struggle comes from the stutter, and how much of it comes from other issues?
It's a perfect storm of components that would drive a man into retreat. You're on show, but you're not amongst ordinary people. Where do you find your friends? How many people are ever going to be able to give you a hug, or shake your hand, or give you a pat on the back, or mock you jokingly at a football game? And then on top of that, you're literally living behind very, very high walls. So, how do you reach a man like that, through all of those things? Plus his struggle to communicate, plus he's convinced that he cannot communicate. He's basically locked in. And I think one of the things that happens in our story is that he finds a friend.

You wore quite an elaborate coat in the film's coronation scene. How heavy was that thing?
Talk about not needing to use your imagination much when it comes to the burden of state! It could perfectly break your spine. It's insane. And to think, a couple of hundred years before, people went into battle wearing that stuff.

KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

(Avoiding) Home for the Holidays

indies & arties

This year, start a new holiday tradition: Escaping your family by fleeing to the movies. This weekend offers several cinematic options for forsaking your loved ones.

Bundle up to take in some flicks in the frosty air Thursday and Friday evening, as "Polar Express" and "Elf" screen on Lafayette Tower near Farragut Square Park.

If central heating is more your thing, the AFI Silver is showing a triple feature of Christmas classics, starting Friday: "A Muppet Christmas Carol" is surprisingly faithful to the original Dickens text — well, except for the talking rats. The film casts Michael Cain as a Muppet-surrounded Scrooge, the evergreen Kermit as Bob Cratchit and his irritating nephew Robin as Tiny Tim. Stick around for "It's a Wonderful Life," which instructs that the Christmas season is not an appropriate time to kill yourself, and "A Christmas Story," which apparently exists outside of its annual 24-hour TBS assault.

COURTESY NBC

Catch little Zuzu and family in "It's a Wonderful Life" multiple times this month.

The Arlington Cinema 'N' Draft House wants to offer you refuge, too. Assuage your guilt at Friday's showing of "It's a Wonderful Life," which benefits Children's National Medical Center. And, closer to Christmas, on Dec. 23, add a little "Mystery Science Theater 3000" flavor to "Home Alone" when comedians The Raspberry Brothers mock Macaulay Culkin's greatest moment, live. And if you don't think the brothers are funny, you get your money back. Try that with Aunt Irma's unflattering handmade sweater.

KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Screens Red & Green

- **Lafayette Tower:** Thu. & Fri., 5:30 p.m., free. 801 17th St. NW; Goldentriangledc.com. (Farragut West)
- **AFI Silver:** Through Dec. 23. 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. 301-495-6700, Afi.com/silver. (Silver Spring)
- **Arlington Cinema 'N' Drafthouse:** Fri., 6:15, $10; Dec. 23, $12; 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington. 703-486-2345.

WeekendPass | goingoutguide.com

1 God Bless America

Pfft. Americans. We make every story about ourselves, so the Washington Ballet's annual Americanization of "The Nutcracker" should come as no surprise. Mouse King? Herr Drosselmeyer? Try George Washington and cherry trees and American Indians. Take that, balletic tradition! USA! USA! ➜ *Warner Theatre, 513 13th St. NW; through Dec. 26, $31-$94; 202-397-7328, Warnertheatre.com. (Metro Center)*

2 Mojo Rising

Sure, "Mojo" is a play about music. No, wait, "Mojo" is a play about a nightclub where people play music, and also where they kill each other in gruesome ways because that's what gangsters do. It's like David Mamet, if Mamet had been asked to adapt "Scarface" and "The Commitments" into one play. ➜ *Studio Theater, 1501 14th St. NW; through Dec. 26, $30-$35; 202-332-3300, Studiotheatre.org. (Dupont Circle)*

3 Yes, Uke Can

Local rockers the Sweater Set bring a modern-pop twist to ukulele rock. What? You've never heard of ukulele rock? Just what boulder do you live under? Well, Sara Curtin and Maureen Andary will teach you that it's about much more than a teeny guitar. Check out our full interview with the gals online at Expressnightout.com. ➜ *Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; with Drop Electric, Sat., 9 p.m., $12; 202-677-4490. (U St.-Cardozo)*

5 Exile in Girlville

Liz Phair performed a major community service with her 1993 paean to broken hearts of all sorts, "Exile in Guyville." She bared the soul of a young woman alternately pissed off that love dies and energized by the fact that love evolves. She was vulnerable, strong and funny, and played some sweet guitar. She offered clueless dudes some accidental insight into the girls whose tape decks had "Exile" in regular rotation, giving both genders a script that didn't pander to either, for once. And she's been trying to live it down ever since. ➜ *9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Fri., 8 p.m., $25; 202-265-0930, 930.com. (U St.-Cardozo)*

top stops WEEKEND

4 Dim Memories

While Mount Vernon is kind of the poor cousin of Monticello, it's also significantly closer — and this weekend, it's hosting its traditional candlelit tour of the mansion. Honestly, any house with that much brocade is no place to be stumbling around with candles, but if George and Martha could survive such danger, we imagine you will, too. ➜ *Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria; Sat. and Sun., $20; 703-780-2000, Mountvernon.org.*

▶sound

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THURSDAY

Black Cat: River James, Deleted Scenes, 9 p.m., $10.

Black Rock Center for the Arts: Margot MacDonald, 7:30 p.m., $22.

Birchmere: A John Waters Christmas, 7:30 p.m., $45.

Blues Alley: Kim Jordan, 8 & 10 p.m., $20.

Comet Ping Pong: Ex- Humans, the Shirks, Foster Care, Hollywood, the Furries, 10:30 p.m., $10.

Iota: Last Train Home, the Honeycutters, 9 p.m., $12.

Jammin' Java: "Decembersongs" featuring Dan Navarro, Amy Speace, Sally Barris, Jon Vezner, 7:30 p.m., $20.

Kennedy Center/Concert Hall: Handel's Messiah, 1, 7 & 8 p.m., $20-$85.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: The Sweet Heaven Kings, 6 p.m., free.

Kennedy Center/Terrace Theater: Anonymous 4, 7:30 p.m., $38.

Rams Head Tavern: "Christmas With Aaron Neville and His Quintet," 8 p.m., $69.50.

Red Palace: Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr., Ugly Purple Sweater, 9 p.m., $8.

Rock & Roll Hotel: Paperhaus, Presto Bando, Andrew Grossman Ensemble, 8:30 p.m., $10.

State Theatre: Division, Iris Divine, A Sound of Thunder, Scream/Ruin, 8 p.m., $10-$12.

Twins Jazz: Tribe of Vibe, 8 & 10 p.m., $10.

U Street Music Hall: DJ Ayres, Nick Catchdubs, Jess Jubilee, Munchi, 9 p.m., $7.

Velvet Lounge: The Mercies, Spirit Animal, 9 p.m., $8.

FRIDAY

9:30 Club: Liz Phair, U.S. Royalty, 8 p.m., $25.

Black Cat: Gene Ween, the Blackberry Belles, 9 p.m., $20.

Blues Alley: Carolyn Malachi, 7 & 10 p.m., $25.

Birchmere: The Roches' Holiday Show featuring Lucy Wainwright Roche, 7:30 p.m., $35.

Bohemian Caverns: Tim Warfield, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m., $20-25.

Iota: The Justin Trawick Group, Jamie

Compiled by Express' Fiona Zublin. Find more of our daily picks — and what's coming up this weekend — at expressnightout.com/topstops.

Mclean Band, 9 p.m., $12.

Jammin' Java: Bill Kirchen Honky Tonk Holiday Show, 8 p.m., $20.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: The Kindler Cello Society of Washington D.C. Recital, 6 p.m., free.

Kennedy Center/Terrace Theater: Preservation Hall Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., $45.

Rams Head Tavern: Pieces of a Dream, 6:30 & 9:30 p.m., $35.

Red Palace: Skullduggery & Skin Show, Albert Cadabra, 10 p.m., $8.

Rock & Roll Hotel: Bellman Barker, Megan Jean and the Klay Family Band, Alma Tropicalia, Fort Washington Band, 9 p.m., $10.

State Theatre: The Legwarmers, 9 p.m., $17.

Twins Jazz: Nasar Abadey, James King 9 & 11 p.m., $20.

U Street Music Hall: King Brit, Sam the Man Burns, 10 p.m., $10.

Velvet Lounge: House and Home, Bake Sale, the Pocket Gays, DJ TMY, DJ Good Goose of Menya, 9 p.m., $8.

SATURDAY

9:30 Club: Ghostland Observatory, Dr. Jak, 8 p.m., sold out.

Black Cat: Drop Electric, Emily Welles, the Sweater Set, 9 p.m., $10-$12.

Black Rock Center for the Arts: Snow Day, 2 p.m., $12.

Blues Alley: Carolyn Malachi, 7 & 10 p.m., $25.

Birchmere: Pieces of a Dream, 7:30 p.m., $35.

Bohemian Caverns: Tim Warfield, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m., $20-25.

Comet Ping Pong: Sidewalk Driver, 10:30 p.m., free.

Iota: Last Train Home, Deep River, 9 p.m., $13.

Jammin' Java: Rocknoceros Holiday Show and Singalong, 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m., $10.

Kennedy Center/Concert Hall: Washington Chorus, 1 & 7 p.m., $15-$65; Choral Arts Society of Washington concert, 4 p.m., $15-$45.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: Washington Performing Arts Society's Children of the Gospel Choir Concert, 6 p.m., free.

Kennedy Center/Terrace Theater: Choral Arts Society of Washington,

Continued on page E13

Good Folks

SHERVIN LAINEZ

FAMILY AFFAIRS: Vandaveer hits Iota on Sunday. Fronted by D.C.-by-way-of-Kentucky artist Mark Charles Heidinger, the band now includes his sister Rose Guerin on vocals. If you miss it, don't worry too much — they'll be right back in January.

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Continued from page E11

4 p.m., $15-$45.

Music Center at Strathmore: Evening with O/A/R, 8:30 p.m., sold out.

Rams Head Tavern: Hard Travelers, 8 p.m., $22.50.

Rock & Roll Hotel: Beasts Of No Nation, Police & Thieves, Give, the Regents, 8 p.m., $10.

State Theatre: Wu-Tang Clan, 9 p.m., $50.

Twins Jazz: Nasar Abadey, James King 9 & 11 p.m., $20.

U Street Music Hall: Will Eastman, Obeyah, David Sumner, 10 p.m., $10.

Velvet Lounge: Watermelon, Coppertonic, Alma Tropicalia, DJ Lunch Money, 9 p.m., $8.

SUNDAY

9:30 Club: Justin Townes Earle, Jessica Lea Mayfield, 7 p.m., $20.

Blues Alley: Carolyn Malachi, 7 & 10 p.m., $25.

Iota: Last Train Home, 4 p.m., $12. Vandaveer, Jonathan Vassar and the Speckled Bird, Erin Lang, 8 p.m., $10.

Jammin' Java: My Favorite Highways Finale Show, 6 p.m., $15.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: "Nowell Sing We Clear," 6 p.m., free.

Music Center at Strathmore: "Kenny Rogers: Christmas & Hits," 9 p.m., $49.50-$77.50; Baltimore Consort, 3 and 7:30 p.m., $28.

Rams Head Tavern: Count the Cost, 7 p.m., $20.

Red Palace: The Gay Blades, 8:30 p.m., $8.

Twins Jazz: Braxton Cook, 8 & 10 p.m., $20.

Velvet Lounge: Phillip Noss, Daba Wells, Owen Danoff, No Love Lost Goth, Cold WAve, Minimal Synth, DJ Sean Gray, DJ Denman, 9 p.m., $10.

Out of This World

TRASHY MOPED RECORDINGS

STELLAR ROCK: Sure, music is neat, but lasers are awesome. Austin, Texas-based Ghostland Observatory hits the 9:30 Club on Saturday, bringing their electro-rock-funk tunes and reputation for mind-blowing live performances with them.

▶sight

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Addison/Ripley: "No Edition: Painterly Prints," works by Lou Stovall, opening Sat., through Jan. 22. 1670 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-338-5180, Addisonripleyfineart.com.

Alliance Francaise: "Charley de Limur: Home Landscapes, Work From California, the East Coast and France," a solo show by the California artist, through Jan. 10. 2142 Wyoming Ave. NW; 202-234-7911, Francedc.org.

American Painting: "Small Treasures," more than 100 works by members of the gallery, the Washington Society of Landscape Painters and guest artists, through Jan. 15. 5118 MacArthur

Continued on page E14

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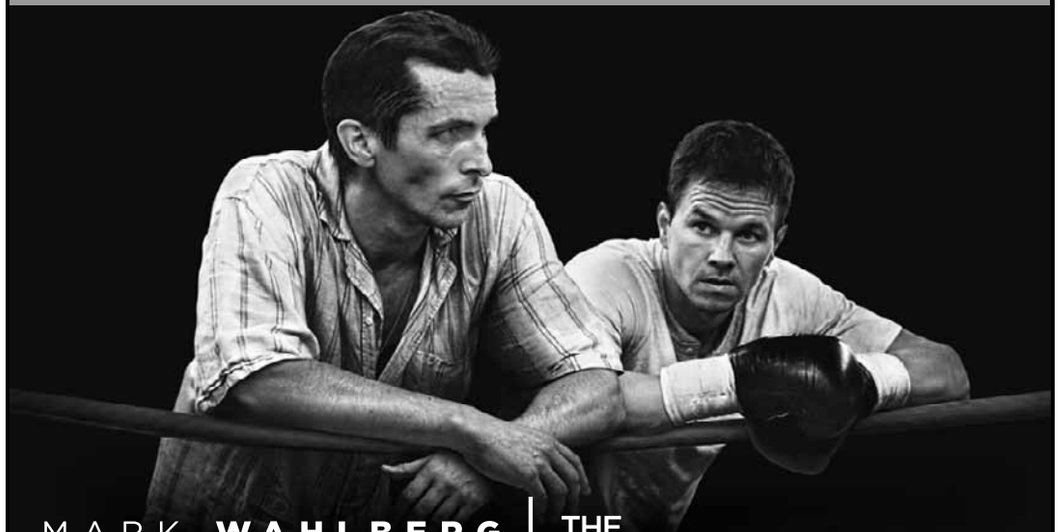

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Continued from page E13

Blvd. NW; 202-244-3244.

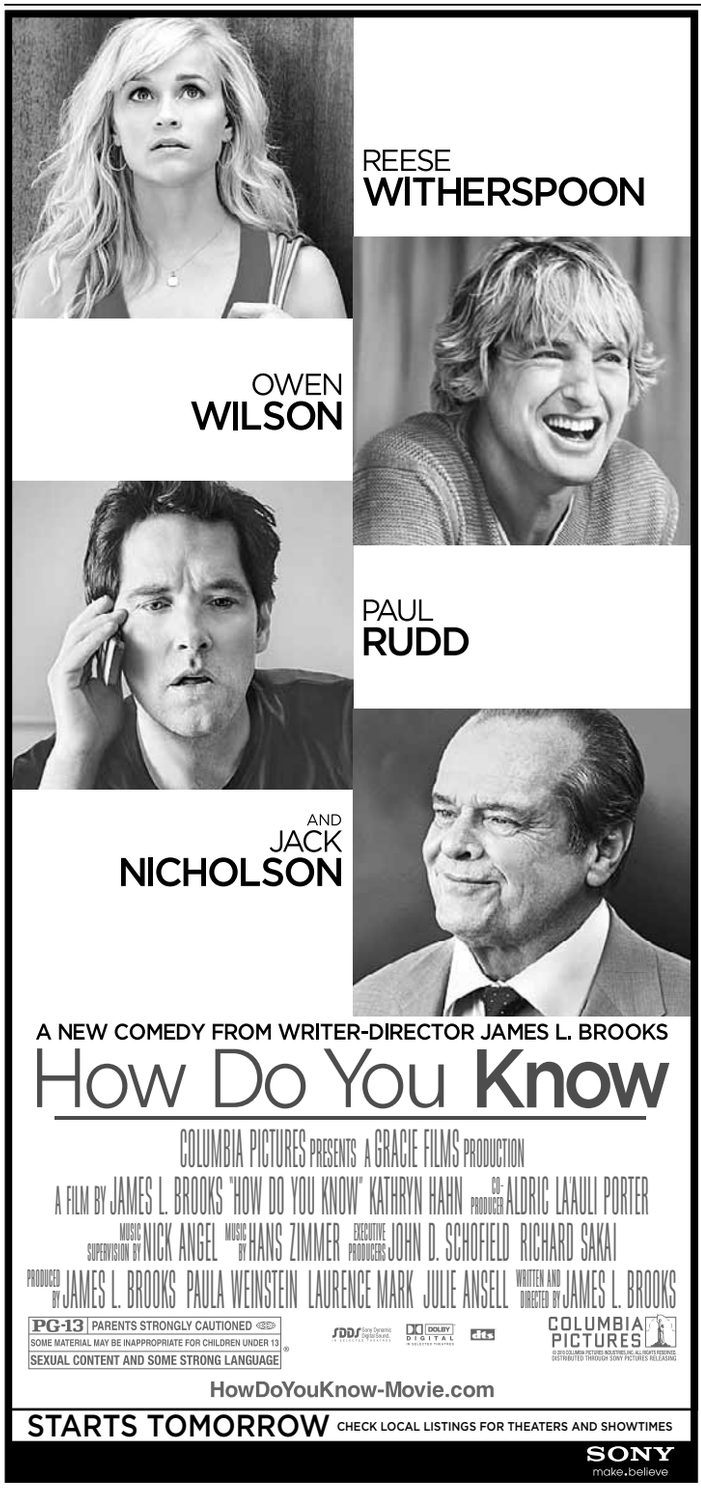
LAST CHANCE American University/Katzen Arts Center: "Catalyst: 35 Years of Washington Project for the Arts," a selection of work from the WPA's 35-year history, with more than 150 artists' works on display, through Sun. Katzen Arts Center, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-885-1300, American.edu/katzen.

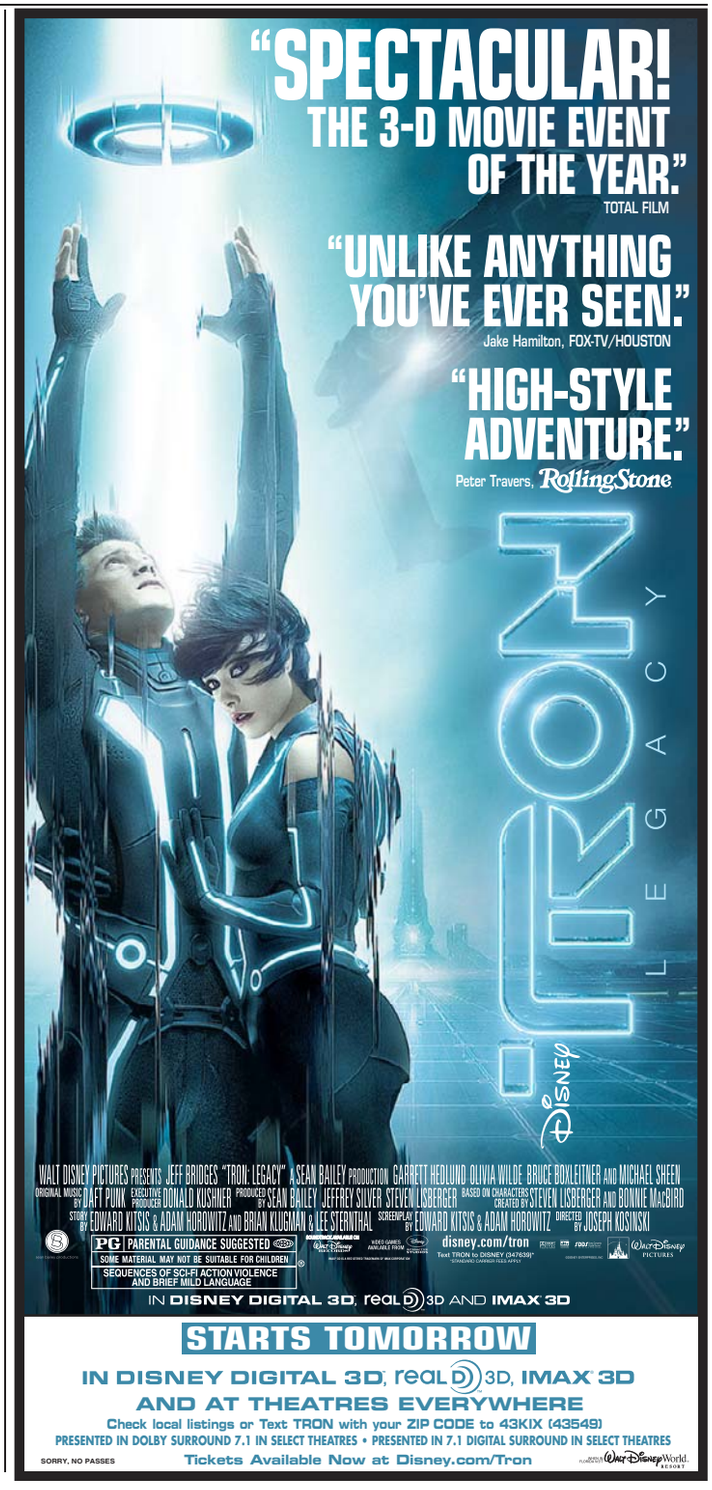
Arlington Arts Center: "Party Crashers: Comic Book Culture Invades the Art World," a look at the similarities and differences between contemporary artists and comic book images, with a second part of the exhibition on display at Artisphere, through Jan. 15. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, Arlingtonartscenter.org.

Art Museum of the Americas: "Al Margen," Petra Barth's photos showcase Latin America and the Caribbean from 2004 to the present, through Jan. 7. "Argentina in Focus: Visualizing the Concept," works by Cristian Segura and Sergio Vega, through Jan. 2. "Vidas Minadas: Diez Años" ("Mined Lives: Ten Years"), a solo exhibition by artist Gervasio Sánchez will be on display on the museum's second floor, through Jan. 2. 201 18th St. NW; 202-458-6016, Museum.oas.org.

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: "Fiona Tan: Rise and Fall," a collection of stills and video from the Indonesian artist, through Jan. 16. "Gods of Angkor: Bronzes From the National Museum of Cambodia," a collection of Cambodian sculptures, through Jan. 23. "Shahnama: 1000 Years of the Persian Book of Kings," illustrations from the Shahnama, which tells the story of Iran up until the conquest of Islam, and paintings it has inspired, through April 17. 1050 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000, Asia.si.edu.

Artisphere: "Fields and Networks," Alice Whealin's ink drawings, through Jan. 8. "Unfolding Folding: Collider," an





interactive installation examining the geometry of crystals, through Jan. 12. 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-875-1100.

Athenaeum: "Molded From Complicated Mixtures," paintings based on plastic children's toys by Megan Marlatt, through Jan. 2. 201 Prince St., Alexandria; 703-548-0035, Nvfaa.org.

Carroll Square Gallery: "Artwork by Tracy's Kids," young cancer patients and their families use art as therapy, opening Fri., through Jan. 7. 975 F St. NW; 202-624-8643.

LAST CHANCE **Conner Contemporary Art:** "Douche Bag City," an exhibit by Frederico Solmi about the Wall Street set, through Sat. 1358-60 Florida Ave. NE; 202-588-8750, Connercontemporary.com.

LAST CHANCE **Corcoran Gallery of Art:** "Origin to Icon: Exploring Danish Design," the works of some of Denmark's well-known designers tell the story of Danish design, opening Sat., through Mon. "Spencer Finch: My Business, With the Cloud," the local artist examines clouds in this exhibit presented as part of the "NOW at the Corcoran" series, through Jan. 23. "Washington Color and Light," selections from the museum's collection of work by the Washington Color School of the 1950s-70s, and more modern work, through March 6. 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700, Corcoran.org.

Curator's Office: "Barock Girls," Victoria F. Gaitán's and Cecilia Paredes' baroque photographs, through Jan. 7. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-387-1008, Curatorsoffice.com.

Edison Place Gallery: "All Photo Alumni Exhibition," as part of FotoWeek DC, the gallery presents works by Corcoran alumni, through Dec. 17. 702 Eighth St. NW; 202-872-3396.

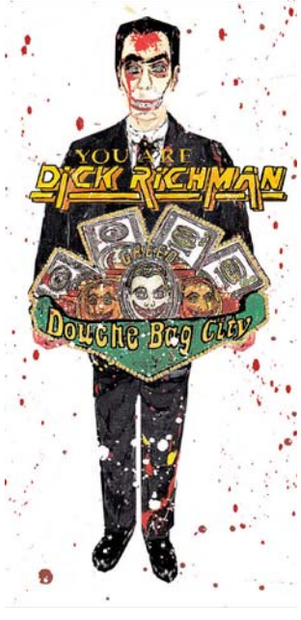
LAST CHANCE **Flashpoint:** "Unreleased," a video installation by Heather Bursch made from a tiny grid of videos animated by the artist, through Dec. 22. 916 G St. NW; 202-315-1305, Flashpointdc.org.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Vivat Rex!," documents examining the life of Henry VIII, through Dec. 30. 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-4600, Folger.edu.

Freer Gallery of Art: "Ancient Chinese Jades and Bronzes," more than 100 pieces in jade and bronze showing the Liangzhu culture, through Aug. 1; "Chinamania: Whistler and the Victorian Craze for Blue and White," includes blue-and-white Chinese ceramic dishes, as well as drawings, paintings and etchings by James McNeill Whistler, through Aug. 1; "Cornucopia: Ceramics From Southern Japan," a variety of glazed and

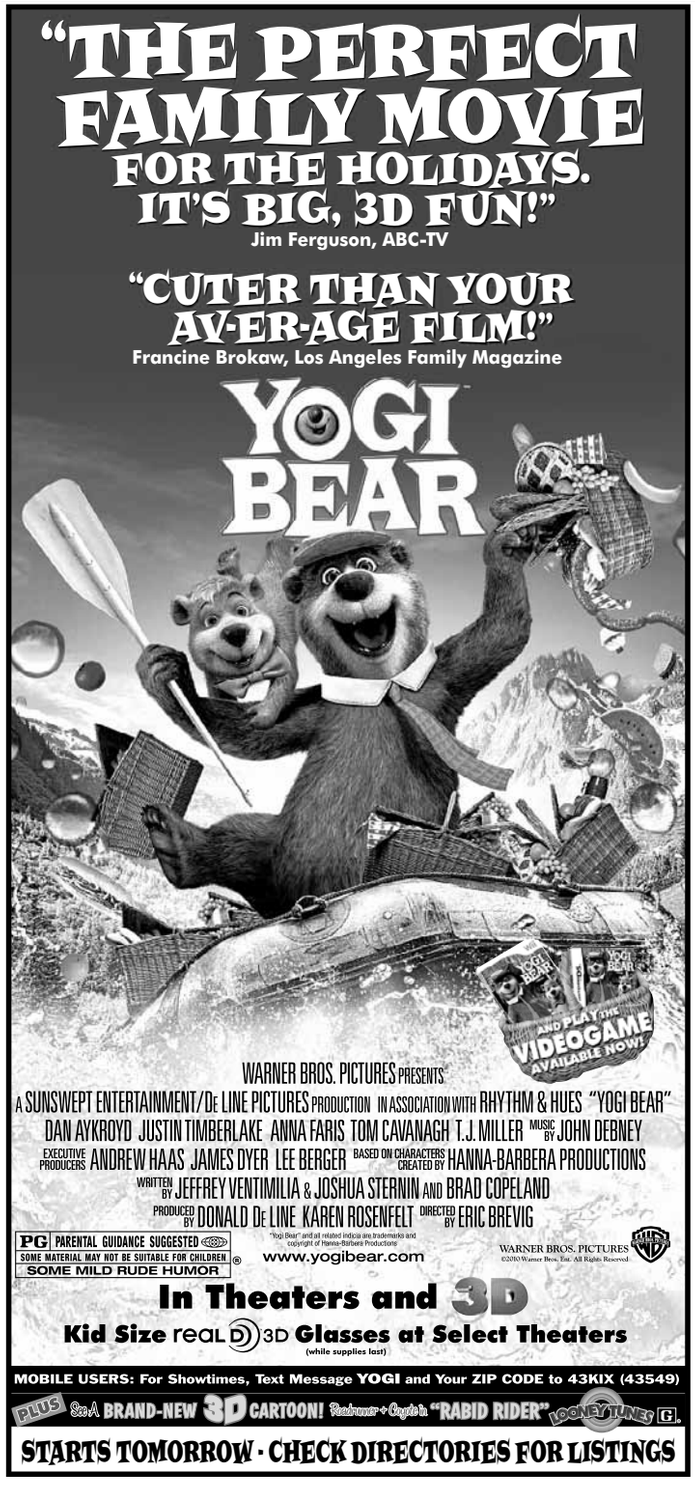
Continued on page E17

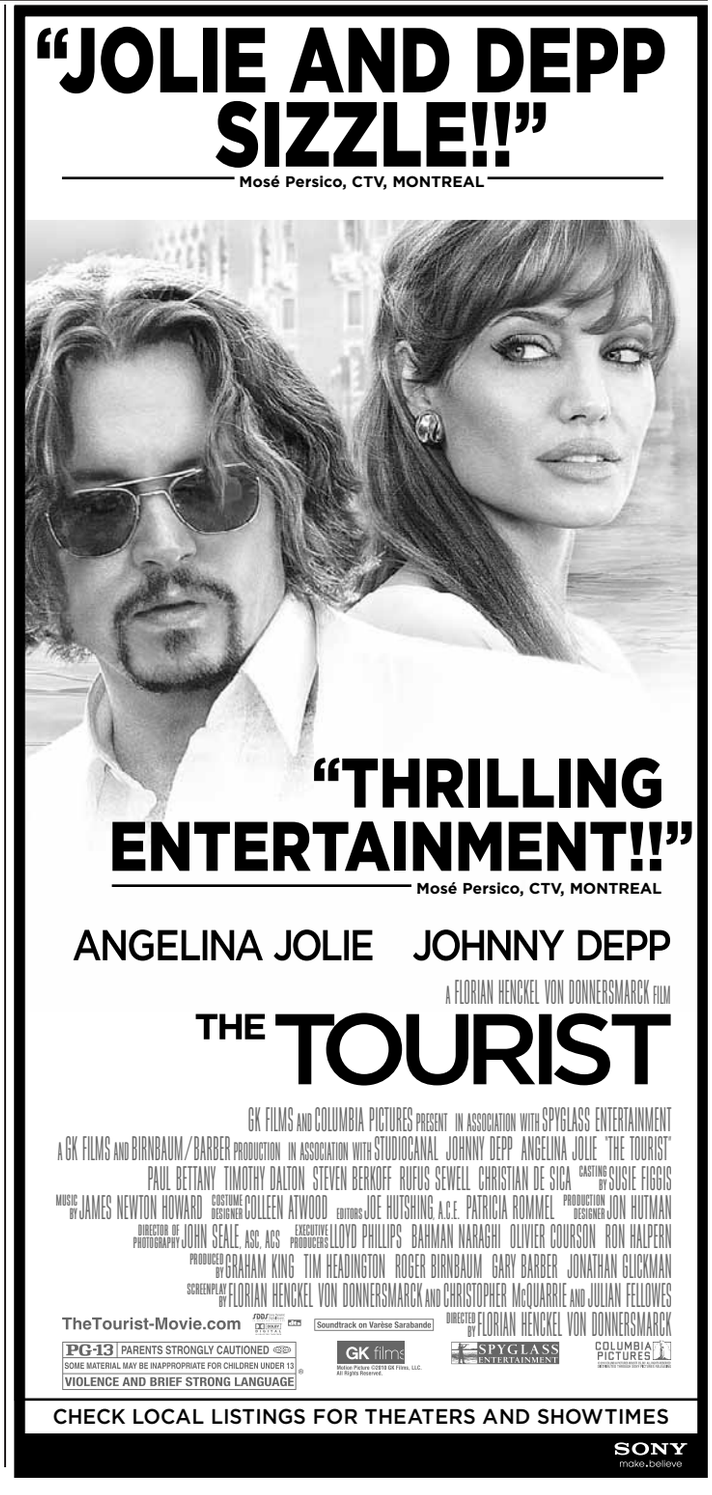
Mr. Not-Nice Guy



FEDERICO SOLMI

FAT CATS: If only there were a word — rhymes with juice — to describe what artist Federico Solmi really thinks of the Wall Street set. There are, however, images in the painter's exhibit (up through Saturday) at Conner Contemporary Art.





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Continued from page E15

decorated objects, through Jan. 9. Jefferson Drive and 12th Street SW; 202-633-1000, Asia.si.edu.

Gallery 555: "10' x 2' x 8 Artists," eight artists will have a small area to display their work, through Jan. 14. 555 12th St. NW; 202-393-1409, Gallery555dc.com.

Gateway Arts Center: "Compressed Narratives: Peter Gordon, Aniko Makranczy and Juan Rojo Acebes," an exhibition of works by three artists with diverse backgrounds, through Dec. 30. "Vintage Visions: African American Cinema Posters," the posters will be on display at Gallery 110, through Jan. 8. 3901 Rhode Island Ave., Brentwood; 301-864-3860.

Expensive Taste

COURTESY NGA

OOH & AHH: Rich people can afford some great art. At least Chester Dale could, and now you can see 83 of his finest French and American paintings in the National Gallery's exhibit "From Impressionism to Modernism: The Chester Dale Collection."

Goethe-Institut: "Documentary Photography 07/08," works by winners of the Wüstenrot Foundation Award, through Jan. 28. 812 Seventh St. NW; 202-289-1200, Goethe.de/ins/us/was/enindex.htm.

Hemphill: "Julia Wolfe," the artist's works intertwine images of life and death, through Dec. 23. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, Hemphillfinearts.com.

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden: "Black Box: Hans Op de Beeck," a dark background offsets lighting effects and black and white film, as well as sculpture, painting, drawing and installations, through Feb. 27; "Colorforms," the exhibit explores the history of artists' fascinations with abstract color from World War II to the present, through Jan. 2; "Directions: Mario Garcia Torres and Cyprien Gaillard," the two artists examine recent art, through March 27; "Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008," more than two decades of paintings by the Argentine artist, through Jan. 16. Seventh Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, Hirshhorn.si.edu.

Historical Society of Washington: "East of the River: Continuity and Change," a traveling exhibit of the Anacostia Community Museum, this display looks at Washington communities east of the river, through Jan. 1. 801 K St. NW;

Continued on page E22

Local movie times

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

DISTRICT

AMC Loews Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) CC-Closed Captions: 1:30
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 2:05
How Do You Know (PG-13) Special 12:01AM: 12:01AM
Fair Game (PG-13) AMC INDEPENDENT: 2:50-5:30-8:15-10:45
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 3:45-6:25-9:00
Yogi Bear (PG) Special 12:01AM: 12:01AM
Black Swan (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 3:45-6:30-9:15-11:50
127 Hours (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 2:55-5:45-8:30
The Tourist (PG-13) 1:45-3:30-4:30-6:15-7:15-8:45-9:45-11:20
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D;Special 12:01AM: 12:01AM
Black Swan (R) AMC INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation: 2:00-4:30-7:30
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:30-8:00
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 3:00-11:30
Unstoppable (PG-13) 3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30
Burlesque (PG-13) 2:10-4:55-7:50-10:40
Love and Other Drugs (R) 2:15-5:00-7:45
The Social Network (PG-13) 7:10-9:55
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 4:25
The Warrior's Way (R) 1:50

AMC Loews Uptown 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D;Special 12:01AM: 12:01AM
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 4:30-7:50

AMC Mazza Gallerie
5300 Wisconsin Ave. NW www.AMCTheatres.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Club Cinema-Over 21: 3:30-7:20
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 2:50-5:20-7:40
Love and Other Drugs (R) Club Cinema-Over 21: 2:40-5:25-8:00
The Tourist (PG-13) 2:20-5:00-7:30
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 2:30-5:10-7:50
Megamind (PG) 2:10
Unstoppable (PG-13) 4:40-7:10
Burlesque (PG-13) 4:10

Avalon
5612 Connecticut Avenue www.theavalon.org

Father and Guns (De pere en flic) (NR) (!) 10:30-12:50-3:15-5:45-8:20
Winter's Bone (R) 10:15-3:00-8:00
The Social Network (PG-13) 12:30-5:15
Burlesque (PG-13) 10:30-12:50-3:15-5:45-8:20

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th St. NW www.landmarktheatres.com

I Love You Phillip Morris (R) 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:00
All Good Things (R) 2:50-5:10-7:40-9:55
White Material (NR) 2:20
Marwencol (NR) 2:15-4:45
Fair Game (PG-13) 2:30-5:00-7:30-9:55
Inside Job (PG-13) 4:50
Black Swan (R) 1:30-3:00-4:15-5:45-7:00-8:15-9:30
127 Hours (R) 2:10-9:40

Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14
707 Seventh Street NW www.regalcinemas.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 4:10-10:25
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:10-2:35-5:05-7:30-9:55
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:00
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
Love and Other Drugs (R) Digital Projection: 12:00-2:45-5:25-8:05
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:50-1:20-2:30-4:00-5:10-7:15-7:50-10:00
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 12:40-1:50-4:50-7:00-7:40-10:40; (!) 4:00-9:50
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:05-3:20-6:30-9:45
Unstoppable (PG-13) 12:20-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:35
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 12:30-3:20-6:20-9:10
Due Date (R) 2:40-8:00-10:20
The Fighter (R) 12:01AM
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:40-4:30-7:15
Faster (R) 12:15
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 9:20
Tangled (PG) 1:20-3:50-6:50
The Warrior's Way (R) 12:00-2:25-4:55-10:10

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road www.afi.com/silver

Black Swan (R) NO PASSES: (!) 12:30-2:45-5:00-7:20-9:30
127 Hours (R) 1:05-3:05-5:05-7:10-9:15
Captains Courageous (PG) Victor Fleming: 6:40
The Apartment (NR) 9:00

AMC Loews Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled (PG) CC-Closed Captions: 4:10-6:45
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 2:30-4:55-7:35
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 3:00-6:30
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 4:30-7:15
Megamind (PG) 2:45
Unstoppable (PG-13) 4:40-7:00
Burlesque (PG-13) 5:00-7:40
Love and Other Drugs (R) 4:45-7:25
Tangled (PG) 4:10-6:45
The Warrior's Way (R) (!) 5:05

AMC Loews White Flint 5
11301 Rockville Pike www.AMCTheatres.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:00-4:15-7:30
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 1:40-4:35-7:15
Burlesque (PG-13) 2:00-4:55-7:45
Love and Other Drugs (R) 2:20-5:15-8:00
Tangled (PG) 1:20-4:00-7:00

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:10-1:40-4:20-7:00-9:25
Faster (R) CC-Closed Captions: 12:30-3:00-5:20-7:40-10:10
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 1:10-3:30-6:00-8:30
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 11:30-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:00
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D;Special 12:01AM: (!) 12:01AM
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:45-4:15-7:25
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 11:00-1:35-4:20-7:00-10:00
Unstoppable (PG-13) 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:05-9:45
Due Date (R) 7:40-9:55
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:35
Faster (R) 12:30-3:00-5:20-7:40-10:10
For Colored Girls (R) 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:05
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 11:05-2:00-4:45-7:50
Tangled (PG) 11:50-2:20-5:00
The Warrior's Way (R) 12:00-2:30-5:05-7:45-10:15

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue www.landmarktheatres.com

Today's Special (R) 4:30-9:45
The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (Luftslottet som sprangdes) (R) 12:55-6:45
Tamara Drewe (R) 1:50-7:15
Fair Game (PG-13) 1:45-4:00-4:40-7:00-9:25-9:55
Inside Job (PG-13) 2:20-4:55-7:20-9:50
Black Swan (R) 1:15-2:15-3:00-3:45-4:45-5:30-6:30-7:30-8:15-9:00-10:00
127 Hours (R) 2:30-5:00-7:25-9:40

Regal Bethesda 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue www.regalcinemas.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 10:00
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 2:15-4:30
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:40-4:45-7:15-9:40
Love and Other Drugs (R) Digital Projection: 2:20-5:00-7:50-10:25
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2:30-6:00-9:10
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:30
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:20
Unstoppable (PG-13) 2:50-5:20-8:00-10:25
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 2:10-4:50-7:30
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50
The Social Network (PG-13) 10:05
Tangled (PG) 3:00-5:30-7:45

Regal Hyattsville Royale Stadium 14
6505 America Blvd.

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:45-4:40-7:15-9:45
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:50-4:50-7:10-9:50
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:00-2:00-4:00-5:00-7:00-8:00-9:40-10:40
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 1:20-4:20-7:40-10:20
Unstoppable (PG-13) 1:40-4:45-7:45-10:05
Due Date (R) 2:05-5:05-7:50-10:35
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10
For Colored Girls (R) 1:05-4:25-7:25
The Fighter (R) 12:01AM
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:55
Love and Other Drugs (R) 1:35-4:10-7:35-10:15
Tangled (PG) 1:15-3:40-6:45
The Warrior's Way (R) 1:55-4:35-7:55-10:45
How Do You Know (PG-13) 12:01AM

Regal Majestic 20
900 Ellsworth Drive

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 1:15-4:25-7:40
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:10-2:45-5:15-7:35-9:55
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:55-2:20-4:40-6:55-9:15
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:45-1:40-3:20-4:15-6:00-7:00-8:35-10:00-11:05
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:35-3:45-7:05-10:20
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1: An IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX 3D: (!) 11:50-2:55-6:00-8:55
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 12:05-1:00-2:30-3:40-4:55-6:10-7:20-8:35-9:45-11:00
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 12:00-1:10-2:40-3:50-5:20-6:35-8:00-9:20-10:45
Unstoppable (PG-13) 12:55-3:30-6:05-8:25-10:50
Due Date (R) 12:25-2:35-4:50-7:10-9:25
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:20-4:00-6:40-9:35
Faster (R) 12:15-2:50-5:25-7:50-10:15
The Fighter (R) 12:01AM
Tron Legacy: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: (!) 12:01AM
Love and Other Drugs (R) 12:20-3:00-5:35-8:05-10:40
For Colored Girls (R) 12:30-3:25-6:25-9:30
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 7:45
Tangled (PG) 12:50-1:30-3:15-4:10-5:30-6:45-9:10
The Warrior's Way (R) 2:05-4:35-7:25-10:05
How Do You Know (PG-13) 12:01AM
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 12:01AM

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 4:00-6:30-9:00
Morning Glory (PG-13) 4:20-7:00-9:30
Unstoppable (PG-13) 5:10-7:40-9:55
Due Date (R) 4:50-7:10-9:20
Burlesque (PG-13) 4:10-6:50-9:35
Red (PG-13) 4:40-7:20-9:45
Tangled (PG) 5:00-7:30-10:00
The Warrior's Way (R) 4:30-7:15-9:40

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video: (!) 12:00-2:50-5:40-8:30
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:15-1:00-1:50-3:35-4:25-6:10-7:00-8:45-9:25
Unstoppable (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 12:15-2:45-5:20-7:55
How Do You Know (PG-13) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Special 12:01AM: (!) 12:01AM
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:20-9:35
Fair Game (PG-13) AMC INDEPENDENT: 12:20-3:00-5:35-8:20
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 11:05-1:45-4:40-7:30-10:00
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1: An IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX: 12:30-3:50-7:15
Yogi Bear (PG) Special 12:01AM: (!) 12:01AM
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 12:05-1:20-2:40-4:00-5:15-6:45-8:00-9:30
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D;Special 12:01AM: (!) 12:01AM
Tron Legacy: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D;Special 12:01AM: (!) 12:01AM
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 11:35-1:30-2:55-4:50-6:15-8:15-9:40
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:20
Morning Glory (PG-13) 12:10-2:45-5:25-8:05
Due Date (R) 12:10-2:30-4:55-7:25-9:50
Burlesque (PG-13) 11:00-1:40-4:35-7:40-10:25
Faster (R) 11:40-2:25-5:05-7:50-10:10
Love and Other Drugs (R) 11:25-2:10-5:00-7:35-10:25
The Social Network (PG-13) 10:20
For Colored Girls (R) 12:40-3:45-6:50-10:00
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 12:35-3:30-6:35-9:45
Tangled (PG) 11:50-2:35-5:10-7:45
The Warrior's Way (R) 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:05-9:35

Alexandria Old Town Theater
815 1/2 King St http://tickets.oldtowntheater.com/

Burlesque (PG-13) 5:00-7:30
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 5:00-7:30

Arlington Cinema 'N' Drafthouse
2903 Columbia Pike http://www.arlingtondrafthouse.com/

Life As We Know It (PG-13) 7:30
The Town (R) 9:50

Regal Ballston Common 12
671 N. Glebe Road www.regalcinemas.com

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 3:30-6:40-9:50
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 2:10-4:50-7:25-10:10
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:40-1:50-3:20-4:40-6:20-7:20-9:10-10:00
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 1:30-3:00-4:10-5:30-7:00-8:00-9:40-10:25
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2:50-6:10
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30
Faster (R) 9:20
The Social Network (PG-13) 3:25-6:20-9:00
Love and Other Drugs (R) 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:30
Fair Game (PG-13) 1:20-3:50-6:30-9:25
127 Hours (R) 2:40-5:20-7:40-10:20

Regal Kingstowne 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Projection: 1:10-7:10-10:20
Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 2:50-5:20-7:45-10:10
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 2:05-4:30
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2:20-6:10-9:30
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:35-2:10-4:10-4:45-7:20
Unstoppable (PG-13) 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:30-9:55
The Tourist (PG-13) RW/DA: (!) 1:00-3:25-6:45-9:20
Due Date (R) 4:35-7:05
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 2:25-5:00-7:50-10:25
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 1:00-3:35-6:15-9:00
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:10-4:05-7:00
The Fighter (R) 12:01AM
Faster (R) 6:25
Love and Other Drugs (R) 1:15-3:55-6:35
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 1:30
Tangled (PG) 1:05-2:00-3:30-4:25-6:55
The Warrior's Way (R) 2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05
How Do You Know (PG-13) 12:01AM
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 12:01AM
Black Swan (R) 12:01AM

Regal Potomac Yard 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Highway www.regalcinemas.com

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:45
Yogi Bear 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
Megamind 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:10-3:50-6:20-8:55
Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 12:01AM
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (!) 1:20-3:30-4:10-6:10-7:00-9:00-9:40
The Tourist (PG-13) Digital Projection: (!) 2:55-5:25-8:00-10:35
Unstoppable (PG-13) 1:05-3:25-5:50-8:10-10:40
The Tourist (PG-13) (!) 4:40-9:50
Due Date (R) 1:25-3:45-6:05-8:20-10:40
The Fighter (R) 12:01AM
The Tourist (PG-13) OC-Open Caption: (!) 2:10-7:15
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:55-3:20-5:05-6:45-8:15-10:00
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (!) 2:00-4:55-7:45-10:30
Burlesque (PG-13) 1:05-3:55-6:35-9:20
Faster (R) 9:10
For Colored Girls (R) 4:05-6:55
The Next Three Days (PG-13) 1:15-10:10
Love and Other Drugs (R) 1:45-4:30-7:25-10:05
Tangled (PG) 1:00-3:40-6:30
The Warrior's Way (R) 2:50-5:10-7:35-10:20
Yogi Bear (PG) (!) 12:01AM

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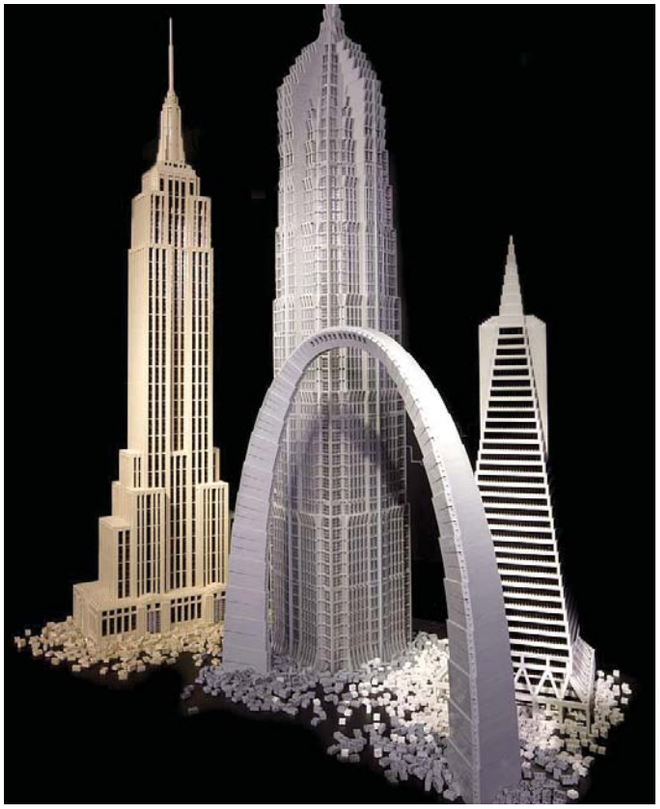
WeekendPass

Building Blocks



ADAM REED TUCKER

STACKED: As a Lego-certified professional, Adam Reed Tucker can build more than some dinky castle. See 15 buildings constructed entirely from Legos at "LEGO Architecture: Towering Ambition," at the National Building Museum.

venues

→ **9:30 CLUB:** 815 V ST. NW; 202-265-0930, 930.COM.

→ **BLACKROCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS:** 12901 TOWN COMMONS DRIVE, GERMANTOWN, MD.; 301-528-2260, BLACKROCKCENTER.ORG.

→ **BIRCHMERE:** 3701 MOUNT VERNON AVE., ALEXANDRIA; 703-549-7500, BIRCHMERE.COM.

→ **BLACK CAT:** 1811 14TH ST. NW; 202-667-4490, BLACKCATDC.COM.

→ **BLUES ALLEY:** 1073 WISCONSIN AVE. NW (REAR); 202-337-4141, BLUESALLEY.COM.

→ **BOHEMIAN CAVERNS:** 2003 11TH ST. NW; 202-299-0800, BOHEMIANCAVERNS.COM.

→ **IOTA CLUB & CAFE:** 2832 WILSON BLVD., ARLINGTON; 703-522-8340, IOTACLUBANDCAFE.COM.

→ **COMET PING PONG:** 5037 CONNECTICUT AVE. NW; 202-364-0404, COMETPINGPONG.COM.

→ **JAMMIN' JAVA:** 227 MAPLE AVE. E., VIENNA, VA.; 703-255-1566, JAMMINJAVA.COM.

→ **KENNEDY CENTER:** 2700 F ST. NW; 202-467-4600, 800-444-1324, KENNEDY-CENTER.ORG.

→ **MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE:** 5301 TUCKERMAN LANE, NORTH BETHESDA, MD.; 301-581-5100, STRATHMORE.ORG.

→ **RAMS HEAD TAVERN:** 33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS, MD.; 410-268-4545, RAMSHEADTAVERN.COM.

→ **RED PALACE:** 1212 H ST. NE; 202-399-3201, REDANDBLACKBAR.COM.

→ **ROCK & ROLL HOTEL:** 1353 H ST. NE; 202-388-7625, ROCKANDROLLHOTELDC.COM.

→ **STATE THEATRE:** 220 N. WASHINGTON ST., FALLS CHURCH, VA.; 703-237-0300, THESTATETHEATRE.COM.

→ **TWINS JAZZ:** 1344 U ST. NW; 202-234-0072, TWINSJAZZ.COM.

→ **U STREET MUSIC HALL:** 1115 U ST. NW; 202-588-1880, USTREETMUSICHALL.COM.

→ **VELVET LOUNGE:** 915 U ST. NW; 202-462-3213, VELVETLOUNGEDC.COM.

Edible Eggnog

COURTESY 2911 PRODUCTIONS

The eggnog ice cream at Trummer's on Main in Clifton, Va., turns froth into frost.

It used to be that you could only sip your eggnog fix, but now pastry chefs and bakers are adapting the festive beverage into a series of tasty treats. N.M.

Ice Cream

Turning frothy into frosty, Trummer's on Main has created an eggnog ice cream for this holiday season. The chilly confection is decorated with sweet meringue and sugar crisps, which make it look like a present you'll want to buy yourself. *Trummer's on Main, 7134 Main St., Clifton, Va.; 703-266-1623, Trummersonmain.com.*

Cupcake

Buzz Bakery starts its Gingerman cupcake with a gingerbread cake base and then fills it with orange curd and frosts it with a rich eggnog buttercream. As if all that wasn't enough of an indulgence for that nagging sweet tooth, a mini-gingerbread man adorns the top. *Buzz Bakery, 901 Slaters Lane, Alexandria; 703-600-2899, Buzzonslaters.com.*

Crème Brûlée

You'll be singing "'Tis the season to be jolly" after you take a bite of 701's rich, creamy eggnog crème brûlée. Actually, maybe you won't be singing at all, because you won't want to stop filling your mouth with this scrumptious sweet. *701, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-393-0701, 701restaurant.com.*

Yuletide Froth for All

Skip the grocery store and nix the carton in favor of one of these eggnog concoctions

Cocktails

This holiday season, eggnog is getting trendy and tasty updates from mixologists all over the city.

At the newly merged Ardeo+Bardeo, sommelier and manager Tim Galvin is shaking together Stoli Vanilla, eggnog and pumpkin puree to create Pumpkin Eggnog. Served on the rocks with cinnamon sprinkled on top, "it has those warm autumn colors and flavors," Galvin explains. "Those always heat people up when it's cold outside."

Eggnog's European roots don't mean bartenders from elsewhere around the globe can't put their own stamps on it. Jason Storch at Indian restaurant Rasika has injected his version with the style of the subcontinent by using a date-infused cognac and date puree. Served in a snifter, the nog is finished off with just a smidge of black sea salt speckling the top.

If you want to try a more Caribbean reimagination, grab a seat at Cuba Libre's bar. It puts a rich, tropical twist on eggnog with its Coquito cocktail, which blends together coconut cream, condensed milk, evaporated milk, white rum, spiced rum, egg yolks, ground cinnamon and vanilla bean. To top it off, there's a dollop of vanilla whipped cream sprinkled with toasted coconut and nutmeg.

COURTESY KIMPTON GROUP

The "Egg 'n' Grog" at Poste is a creamy, traditional take on the seasonal favorite.

For a more straightforward take, try Poste's Egg 'n' Grog. Created by blending together homemade spiced rum, brandy, sherry, spiced syrup, milk and a whole raw egg, it elevates the long-favored libation to a new level. It's made to order, so it's frothy and fresh. Plus, the use of milk instead of cream means that it won't weigh you down like your grandmother's eggnog.

Jen Fitzsimmons, beverage manager at Café Atlantico, also wanted to create eggnog that hearkened back to the traditional version. "We want to bring back classic cocktails," she says. "And classic eggnog is truly delicious." Her tasty throwback is made with egg yolks, sugar, milk and dark spirits, such as rum, brandy and sweet Madeira wine, as well as a slew of spices, including nutmeg, cinnamon and allspice.

The key to her preparation is letting the eggnog mature in the fridge for at least three weeks, which helps enrich all the flavors. "All that alcohol allows it to last that long," Fitzsimmons explains. "And you can really taste the difference, because everything comes together beautifully." NEVIN MARTELL

Locations

- Ardeo+Bardeo, 3311 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-244-6750, Ardeorestaurant.com.
- Café Atlantico, 405 8th St. NW; 202-393-0812, Cafeatlantico.com.
- Cuba Libre, 801 9th St. NW; 202-408-1600, Cubalibrerestaurant.com.
- The Fairmont, 2401 M St. NW; 202-429-2400, Fairmont.com/washington.
- Poste, 555 8th St. NW; 202-783-6060, Postebrasserie.com.
- Rasika, 633 D St. NW; 202-637-1222, Rasikarestaurant.com.

Candy Cane Eggnog Martini

The Fairmont's executive chef, Jason Dalling, whips up this swanky eggnog creation for the cool crowd.

Ingredients:

- **1 large grade-AA egg, separated**
- **2 tsp superfine sugar**
- **1 oz heavy cream**
- **1/2 tsp pure almond extract**
- **1/2 tsp pure peppermint extract**
- **1 1/2 oz Mount Gay Eclipse Rum**
- **Grated cinnamon and nutmeg for garnish**
- **Finely crushed candy cane for rim of martini glass**

NISHA PATEL

Makes 1 Cocktail

Separate the egg into two bowls. Beat the yolk until stiff. Beat the white with 1 tsp sugar until peaks form. Slowly fold the white and yolk together.

Separately, beat the cream with the almond, peppermint, and 1 tsp sugar in a bowl until stiff. Slowly fold in the cream with the egg mixture.

Add Mount Gay Eclipse Rum and stir gently. Refrigerate overnight, or serve immediately shaken with ice and served in a candy cane-rimmed martini glass. Garnish with grated nutmeg.

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Slice Into the Season

Nothing says holiday cheer better than wonderful wedges from local pie makers

Roundup

KRIS CONNOR

The ingredients in the raspberry-peach pie at the Pie Gourmet in Vienna, Va., make beautiful, buttery, carb-filled music together.

There's something about having a slice of pie during the holidays: The fork hitting the crust is a sweet signal that all the hard work is done; now it's time to reward yourself with a break and a bite. Whether you want to go with a traditional pie or you want to mix it up a bit, there are plenty of options in the D.C. area to help keep you relaxed for the duration of the season.

Ned Atwater, co-owner of Atwater's, which sells its pies at a number of D.C. farmers markets, is a fervent proponent of natural, homemade pies crafted in the hands-on style of pre-industrial bakers. "We want to keep traditional foods done in the traditional style alive forever," he says. During the holiday season, the Baltimore-based baker sees customers gravitating toward his pecan pie, which takes the classic recipe and adds molasses and a skosh of lemon. Another end-of-the-year fave is the apple pie, which features spiced local apples baked into a flaky, buttery crust.

Another proponent of top-notch taste is also one of D.C.'s newest pie masters. Rodney Henry is the tattooed, rocker-turned-baker behind Dangerously Delicious on the H Street corridor. His shop exudes both a cool-kid vibe, and the warm smells of savory and sweet pies. Straight-up seasonal favorites are always good, but it's worth branching out and trying some of Henry's twisted takes on the standards. The Motown Brown starts with an already rich pecan base and adds Swiss chocolate and caramel to create a gooey, glucose level-spiking masterpiece. And the Caramel Apple Crumb starts with apples, then layers on a brown sugary crumb topping and a generous drizzle of caramel.

Over in Vienna, Va., the Pie Gourmet offers almost 40 varieties of crusty creations. A standout for the season is the blackberry-pear, topped with the bakery's signature crust that overlays small circles of pastry like golden browned armor. If you want to cut back on the sweets but still get your pie groove on, then order a savory dinner pie. The fresh broccoli and cauliflower option is enriched with mozzarella, Parmesan, eggs and cream, while the chicken potpie is a reassuring take on the Southern comfort.

If you're out in the Cavalier State anyway, stop by Mom's Apple Pie Company, which has stores in Occoquan and Leesburg. More than 35 different homemade pies vie for customers' attention, but several stand out to shoppers at this time of year. A big seller is the mincemeat, which is the result of a full year's worth of work. After pan-searing the beef and the suet, the bakers let it stew in cider before pouring in brandy, spices and a plethora of fruits including apples, cherries, citron, lemon and orange peels, raisins and currants. They then freeze the mixture for 12 months, which ensures that the flavors become deeply entrenched and completely robust.

> **"We want to keep traditional foods done in the traditional style alive forever."**
>
> — **NED ATWATER,** CO-OWNER OF ATWATER'S, WHICH SELLS PIES AT D.C. FARMERS MARKETS

Despite the fact that Mom's does a brisk business in lesser-known pies such as the mincemeat, Renshaw can't say that they are ever her best sellers. "The big three are always pumpkin, apple and pecan," she says. "People always love the basics. You can't go wrong with the basics." **NEVIN MARTELL**

Pie in the Sky

Nice Slices Await You Here

- **Atwater's**, Multiple Maryland locations and various D.C. farmers markets; 410-747-4120, Atwaters.biz.
- **Dangerously Delicious**, 1339 H St. NE; 202-398-7437, Dangerouspiesdc.com.
- **Mom's Apple Pie Company**, 126 A Commerce St., Occoquan, Va.; 703-497-7437, Momsapplepieco.com.
- **The Pie Gourmet**, 507 Maple Ave. W., Vienna, Va.; 703-281-7437, Piegourmet.com.

NEVIN MARTELL

Patrons will want to devour Bayou Bakery's light and spongy beignets with a touch of confectioners' sugar while they're hot.

Big Easy Baking

Bayou Bakery from pastry god David Guas dishes out some good old New Orleans flavor

New Spot

An alligator head hangs on one wall, a collection of pie tins on another, and a row of weather-worn shutters is arranged over the counter. Bayou Bakery's decorations may seem eclectic and uninviting, but the atmosphere is warm and friendly. If you didn't know any better, you might think it was a long-running neighborhood favorite, but it opened only in late November.

Owner David Guas was formerly the executive pastry chef for several area restaurants, including Acadiana and DC Coast, but he is striking out on his own with a venture that reflects a childhood spent in New Orleans.

His dishes are familiar and comforting takes on Big Easy favorites spanning breakfast, lunch, quick-bite and dinner options; there's also a full coffee bar, as well as wine and beer. The main focus is definitely food, though, and it's absolutely worthy of the center stage attention.

NEVIN MARTELL

If you didn't know any better, you might think it was a long-running neighborhood favorite, but it opened only in late November.

The Arm Drip sandwich takes roast beef and piles it with ribbons of onions and gooey Swiss cheese before slathering on fresh gravy and mayo. The roll is crisp and firm on the outside but stays wonderfully soft at its interior. The deviled eggs, above, provide a tasty dollop of mayonnaise and memories of the ones grandma used to make. The grilled pimento cheese is nicely griddled, while the cheese has the consistency of lightly whipped marshmallow. This may sound odd, but it's an unexpected delight that will be a great lunch choice during the snowy days ahead. Another pressed sandwich standout is the Creole Pilgrim, which brings together thin slices of blackened turkey, smoked Gouda, a few arugula leaves and some Dijonnaise spread.

If you want a sweet snack or dessert, Guas has certainly not abandoned his pastry past. Moist and chewy chocolate-chip cookies and rich chocolate ganache cupcakes are both worthy indulgences, but get the beignets if you want a special treat.

Their light and slightly spongy dough has just a hint of sweetness that's magnified by a light snowfall of confectioners' sugar. Made to order, they are best devoured on the spot within seconds of coming out of the deep fryer. If you shut your eyes mid-bite, you might forget you're in Arlington and think that you're at a small café on Bourbon Street. NEVIN MARTELL

● *1515 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington; 703-243-2410, Bayoubakeryva.com. (Courthouse)*

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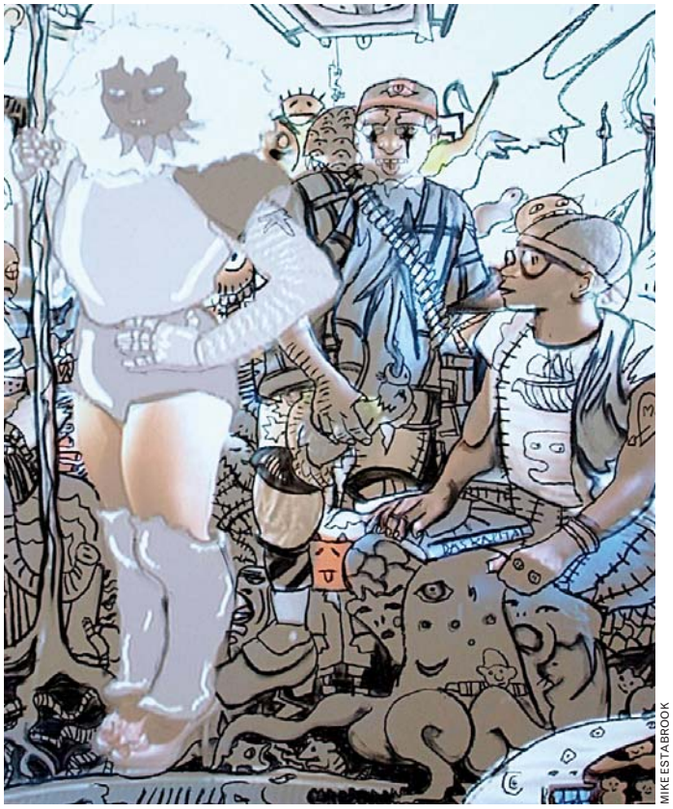


MIKE ESTABROOK

COPYCAT: "Likeness," now at the Honfleur Gallery, is as meta as meta can get. Ten artists each created a portrait, then 10 other artists interpreted that portrait. What you end up with is a richly complex game of visual telephone that ends Friday.

Continued from page E17

202-383-1850, Historydc.org.

Honfleur: "Likeness," a group exhibit of 10 photographers paired with street artists to create parallel images with alternate interpretations, through Dec. 17. 1241 Good Hope Road SE; 202-536-8994, Honfleurgallery.com.

LAST CHANCE **Industry Gallery:** "Din-Din," a large-scale installation of a dinner table complete with chairs and cutlery, through Sat. 1358 Florida Ave. NE; 202-399-1730, Industrygallerydc.com.

International Visions: "Yaw Oboubi: Rhythmic Pulse," yarn collages by the Ghanaian artist , through Jan. 22. 2629 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-234-5112.

LAST CHANCE **Irvine:** "Street/Studio 2.0," a look at art in unconventional media, such as street murals and video, through Sat. 1412 14th St. NW; 202-332-8767, Irvinecontemporary.com.

Long View Gallery: "New Work," Paula Crawford's paintings mimic hepatitis C, which she was diagnosed with, through Jan. 16. 1302 Ninth St. NW; 202-232-4788.

Mexican Cultural Institute: "Weaving Diversity: Textiles From Oaxaca," an exhibit of attire common in the late 19th and 20th centuries, through Feb. 26. 2829 16th St. NW; 202-728-1628, Portal.sre.gob.mx.

Morton Fine Art: "Pretty Little Things," an exhibition and sale of jewelry by five artisan jewelers, through Dec. 22. 1781 Florida Ave. NW; 202-390-5118, Mortonfineart.com.

National Academy of Sciences, Keck Center: "Art & Science," an exhibit highlighting the artwork collection by the National Academy of Sciences, on display by appointment only, through April 2. 2012. 500 Fifth St. NW; 202-334-2436, Nationalacademies.org/arts.

National Air and Space Museum: "Barron Hilton: Pioneers of Flight Gallery," the museum's exhibit of aviation and rocketry in the 1920s and '30s reopened with additional artifacts, through May 2; "Beyond: Visions of Our Solar System," through May 2. "Moving Beyond Earth," an interactive exhibition

that explores recent advances made in human spaceflight, ongoing. Sixth Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, Nasm.si.edu.

National Building Museum: "Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s," a look at the legacy of the fairs in Chicago, San Diego, Dallas, Cleveland, San Francisco and New York during the Great Depression, through July 10; "Lego Architecture: Towering Ambition," architectural artist Adam Reed Tucker uses Lego blocks to re-create landmarks including the Empire State Building, through Sept. 5. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, Nbm.org.

National Gallery of Art, West Building: "From Impressionism to Modernism: The Chester Dale Collection," through Jan. 2, 2012; "The Pre-Raphaelite Lens: British Photography and Painting, 1848-1875," a look at nearly 100 photographs and 20 paintings by British artists, through Jan. 30. Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-737-4215, Nga.gov.

National Museum of African Art: "African Mosaic: Celebrating a Decade of Collecting," a collection of 112 objects that represent 10 years of building a permanent collection, through Dec. 11, 2011. 950 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-4600, Africa.si.edu.

National Museum of American History: "The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey — Where Art and History Intersect," a look at African American history through books, sculptures, paintings, manuscripts and vintage photographs, through May 1; "Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life," the museum brings together its unique and unparalleled Lincoln collection for the first time, through May 30; "Paper Engineering: Fold, Pull, Pop and Turn," pop-up books from 1570 to today show their evolution from education on things such as the workings of the human heart to children's books, through Oct. 10, 2011. 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, Americanhistory.si.edu.

LAST CHANCE **National Museum of Natural History:** "Losing Paradise: Endangered Plants Here and Around the World," a traveling exhibition of 45 botanical illustrations, through Sun.; "Celebrating 100 Years at the National Museum of Natural History," a photographic exhibition recalling the museum's evolution, through March 20; "Cyprus: Crossroads of Civilizations," a look at the history of the Mediterranean island over 1,000 years, through May 1; "Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef," a recent discovery of geometry in coral reefs is looked at through crochet, through April 24. 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, Mnh.si.edu.

National Museum of the American Indian: "Up Where We Belong: Native Musicians in Popular Culture" highlights the contributions of Native Americans to contemporary music, through Jan. 2. "Vantage Point: The Contemporary Native Art Collection," a look at the museum's contemporary art examining the past and present of Native Americans, through Aug. 7. Fourth Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, Nmai.si.edu.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: "Books Without Words: The Visual Poetry of Elisabetta Gut," a display of visual poetry in the form of books, collage-poems and book-objects, through Jan. 16. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000, Nmwa.org.

National Portrait Gallery: "Americans Now" surveys the past 10 years in popular culture, through June 19; "Elvis at 21: Photographs by Alfred Wertheimer," photographs capturing Elvis Presley's transition into an American icon, through Jan. 23; "Glimpse of the Past: A Neighborhood Evolves," a photographic exploration of the neighborhood surrounding the Patent Office Building, through Jan. 8, 2012; "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" illustrates the changing social attitudes toward sexual difference and how they are depicted, through Feb. 13; "One Life: Katharine Graham," the Washington Post publisher's life is portrayed through photographs, portraits, video, drawings and newspaper clippings, through May 30. Eighth and F streets NW; 202-633-1000, Npg.si.edu.

Newseum: "Athlete: The Sports Illustrated Photography of Walter Looss," through Dec. 31, 2011; "Covering Katrina," a look at the hurricane through the eyes of journalists covering it, through Sept. 5; "Elvis! His Groundbreaking, Hip-Shaking, Newsmaking Story," an exhibit about Elvis Presley as he was portrayed in the media, through Feb. 14; "G-Men and Journalists: Top News Stories of the FBI's First Century," coverage of the FBI's most famous investigations, through Dec. 31, 2011; "Inside Tim Russert's Office: If It's Sunday, It's 'Meet the Press,'" the former show's host's office is partially reassembled, through Dec. 31, 2011; "The Pelican Brief," through Thu., 7 p.m. 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 888-639-7386, Newseum.org.

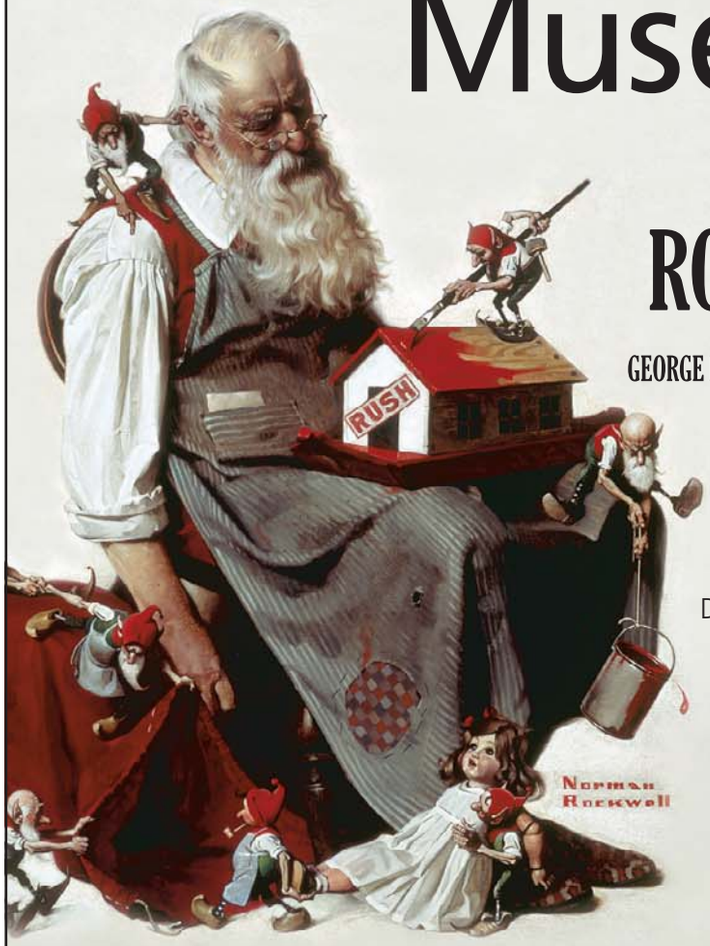
Continued on page E24

Ailing Actress Alert

ASTRID RIECKEN/FTWP

DREAM OVER: It's turbans meet murder as Signature Theatre presents Andrew Lloyd Weber's musical adaptation of the classic film noir "Sunset Boulevard" through Feb. 13. Florence Lacey plays Norma Desmond, a faded actress clinging to her past accomplishments. An aspiring writer agrees to write her comeback script but gets way more dead than he bargained for.

Smithsonian American Art Museum



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***Take 5!*, December 16, 5 – 8 p.m. Tonight!**
Come in out of the cold and enjoy **The Bay Jazz Project** as the band gets everyone in the holiday spirit with seasonal tunes and a whole lot of soul.

***It's a Wonderful Life*, December 16, 6:30 p.m. Tonight!**
Enjoy this classic holiday film with George Bailey and his guardian angel, directed by Frank Capra, starring James Stewart, Donna Reed, and Lionel Barrymore. (1946, 129 min)

***Saturday Evening Post's* Christmas Stories**
Saturday, December 18, 2 p.m.
Celebrate the season with dramatic readings from a selection of favorite holiday tales, including Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Clement C. Moore's *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, and Francis P. Church's *Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus.*

Smithsonian American Art Museum
8th and F streets, NW, Washington DC · AmericanArt.si.edu

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Norman Rockwell, *Christmas: Santa with Elves* (detail), 1922, oil, Collection of George Lucas

WeekendPass

Continued from page E23

Phillips Collection: "Coburn and the Photographic Portfolio," selections of Coburn's book illustrations will be displayed, through Jan. 9; "Installations: Jae Ko," the artist presents his three-part installation called "Force of Nature," made from packing paper, through Feb. 20; "Side by Side: Oberlin's Masterworks at the Phillips," works from the Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin and the Phillips' permanent collection, through Jan. 16; "TruthBeauty: Pictorialism and the Photograph as Art, 1845-1945," more than 130 photographs that explore the evolution of pictorialism over 100 years, through Jan. 9. 1600 21st St. NW; 202-387-2151, Phillipscollection.org.

Renwick Gallery: "A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection," a collection of 66 well-known works of turned and carved wood, through Jan. 30; "The Art of Gaman," a showcase of arts and crafts created in World War II Japanese internment camps, through Jan. 30. 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, Americanart.si.edu.

S. Dillon Ripley Center: "Southern Identity: Contemporary Argentine Art," a bilingual exhibition of artistic trends, through Jan. 23. "The Healing Power of Art: Works of Art by Haitian Children After the Earthquake," children express their feelings about the earthquake through art, through Jan. 9. 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-633-1000, Si.edu/ripley.

Smithsonian American Art Museum: "Alexis Rockman: A Fable for Tomorrow," the contemporary artist uses vivid imagery to display his concern about the world's ecosystems, through May 8; "John Gossage: The Pond," between 1981 and 1985, John Gossage traveled the Washington suburbs with his camera to focus on a pocket of wild, untouched nature and published the book "The Pond." The exhibit is the first time all 53 gelatin silver prints will be on display, through Jan. 17; "Telling Stories: Norman Rockwell From the Collections of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg," Rockwell paintings collected by the two filmmakers, through Jan. 2; "Watch This! New Directions in the Art of the Moving Image," a permanent collection documenting contemporary art's use of video opens Friday, ongoing. Eighth and F streets NW; 202-633-1000, Americanart.si.edu.

Susan Calloway Fine Arts: "Points of View: Contemporary Takes on the Landscape" is six artists' approaches to landscape painting, through Dec. 31. 1643 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-965-4601, Callowayart.com.

Textile Museum: "Colors of the Oasis: Central Asian Ikats," a look at the museum's collection of ikats, clothing from central Asia, through March 13. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, Textilemuseum.org.

U.S. Botanic Garden: "Seasons Greenings," a celebration of how people use plants in holiday traditions, through Jan. 2. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, Usbg.gov.

LAST CHANCE **Vivid Solutions DC:** "Neither ... Nor," photography works by Vietnamese artist Khanh F. Le, presented as part of Anacostia Fotoweek, through Fri. 2208 Martin Luther King Ave. SE; 202-631-6291.

Woodrow Wilson House: "The Art of First Lady Ellen Axson Wilson: American Impressionist," a selection of 18 paintings by the former first lady, through April 10. 2340 S St. NW; 202-387-4062, Woodrowwilsonhouse.org.

Zenith Gallery: "Universe," paintings by Anne Marchand and sculptures by Craig Schaffer, through Jan. 28. 1111 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-783-2963.

▶stage

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A Broadway Christmas Carol: Kathy Feininger's holiday goof labors to simultaneously lampoon and celebrate Charles Dickens' classic ghost story, as well as a slew of interpolated show tunes, through Dec. 19, $25-$50, $25 students. MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria; 703-548-9044, 800-494-8497, Metrostage.org.

A Christmas Carol: Michael Baron directs Michael Wilson's adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale of Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, through Jan. 2, $30-$67. Ford's Theatre, 511 10th St. NW; 202-347-4833, Fordstheatre.org.

A Girl's Guide to Washington Politics: Chicago's Second City returns with a humorous take on prominent female politicians, through Jan. 9, $15-$75. Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D St. NW; 202-393-3939, Woollymammoth.net.

goingoutguide.com | Weekend Pass

A Wrinkle in Time: Meg, her brother, a friend, the eccentric Mrs. Whatsit and her friends travel to a faraway planet to rescue Meg's father, through Dec. 26., $25-$60. Round House Theatre, 4545 East West Hwy., Bethesda; 240-644-1100, Roundhousetheatre.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY **Adam Ferrara:** Comedian Paul Mecurio, who has made his rounds on the late-night and news circuits, takes his talents to the DC Improv, through Sun., $15-$17. Improv, 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-296-7008, Dcimprov.com.

Annie: A plucky redheaded orphan and her bald billionaire protector host an expansive, confident production of this evergreen musical, through Jan. 9, $26-$54. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney; 301-924-3400, Olneytheatre.org.

Black Nativity: Langston Hughes' classic show has become a holiday traditioin, and it can be seen through Jan. 2. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 202-396-2125, Hstreetplayhouse.com.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY **Fall Studio to Stage: Performance Class Showcase:** Features adult dance students in a variety of dance styles. Sat., 8 p.m. & Sun., 7 p.m, $15-$20. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; 202-399-7993, Atlasarts.org.

Every Tongue Confess: The world premiere of Marcus Gardley's folkloric exploration of hate crimes in the South, through Jan. 2, $70-$110. Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW; 202-488-3300, Arenastage.org.

Golden Boy: A man is torn between a successful boxing career and his dreams of being a violinist in this Keegan Theatre production, through Dec. 19, $30-$35. Church Street Theater, 1742 Church St. NW; 703-892-0202, Keegantheatre.com.

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!: Junie B. picks the bully May's name for secret Santa. Will May get a lump of coal, or will Junie B. find her holiday spirit? Adapted from the book series by Barbara Park, through Jan. 9, $10-$22. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-280-1660, Imaginationstage.org.

Maryland Youth Ballet: The dance company performs, opens Fri., through Dec. 27, $15-$30. Montgomery College, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville; 240-567-5301, Montgomerycollege.edu/pac.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY **Men in Tights: A Pink Nutcracker:** The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C., performs with a brass ensemble, three percussionists, a pianist on a 9-foot Steinway grand and finale with candlelight procession, opens Fri. through Sun., $25-$50. George Washington University, Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. NW; 202-994-6800, Lisner.org.

Mojo: Set in the 1950s, rock 'n' roll meets London's darker side at the Atlantic Club, through Dec. 26, $30-$35. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, Studiotheatre.org.

Oklahoma!: A play about plain folks on a small patch of earth being absorbed into a universe of bigger ideas and ambitions, through Dec. 30, $45-$105. Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW; 202-488-3300, Arenastage.org.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The theater presents the live stage show based on the children's stop-motion television classic of the same title, through Dec. 31, $15. Glen Echo Park, Adventure Theatre, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo; 301-634-2270, Adventuretheatre.org.

Seasonal Disorder: Improv presented by the Washington Improv Theater, through Dec. 31, $12. Source, 1835 14th St. NW; 202-204-7800, Sourcedc.org.

LAST CHANCE **Seasons of Light:** Celebrate all of the world's holiday seasons for young audiences, through Dec. 22, $2-$6. Discovery Theater at S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW;

Continued on page E26

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Photo of Anna Deavere Smith by Mary Ellen Mark.

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17 FRI ★ Kindler Cello Society
Named after the founder of the National Symphony, the DC-based group of amateur and professional cellists performs its winter program.

18 SAT ★ WPAS Children of the Gospel Choir
The group showcases the tremendous talents of Washington metropolitan area youth.

19 SUN ★ Nowell Sing We Clear
A lively pageant of midwinter carols, stories, and customs drawn from British and North American folk traditions.

20 MON ★ Last Train Home
A favorite of the DC roots-rock scene, Last Train Home delivers original holiday tunes and interpretations of yuletide classics.

21 TUE ★ Carol Ringers and the Peace Ringers
The groups perform sacred and popular holiday music on traditional hand bells.

22 WED ★ The U.S. Army Blues
The big band presents a "Stan Kenton Christmas," paying tribute to the legendary pianist and big band leader.

23 THU ★ Encore Chorale
Musicians over the age of 55 perform crowd-pleasing holiday music.

PERFORMANCE AT 12 P.M.

24 FRI ★ Beltway Brass Quintet
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25 SAT ★ All-Star Christmas Day Jazz Jam
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ALL PERFORMERS AND PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

26 & 27 SUN & MON ★ Holiday Vaudeville: Sean Grissom, the Alexandria Kleztet, and Mark Hayward
Cajun cellist Sean Grissom hosts two evenings of holiday vaudeville.

28 TUE ★ Bruce Molsky
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29 WED ★ Washington's Camerata
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The Kennedy Center welcomes persons with disabilities.

The Kennedy Center

Weekend Pass

Continued from page E25

202-633-8700, 202-633-3030, Discoverytheater.org.

LAST CHANCE **Snow White, Rose Red (And Fred):** When a D.C. drama club adapts the fairy tale "Snow White, Rose Red" for a regional theater championship, the teens must cope with a last-minute crisis, through Dec. 19, $18. Kennedy Center, Family Theater, 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600, 800-444-1324, Kennedy-center.org.

South Pacific: Lincoln Center Theater presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical about love and war during World War II, through Jan. 16, $39-$150. Kennedy Center, Opera House, 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600, 800-444-1324, Kennedy-center.org.

Sunset Boulevard: Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical focuses on the old glamour of Hollywood and a romantic tragedy, through Feb. 13, $59-$85. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-820-9771, 703-573-7328, Signature-theatre.org.

Superior Donuts: Actor Richard Cotovsky is more than just believable as Arthur Przybyszewski, proprietor of the titular establishment and authoritative relic of a bygone era in Tracey Letts' hit-and-miss Chicago comedy, through Jan. 2, $44-$65. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, Studiotheatre.org.

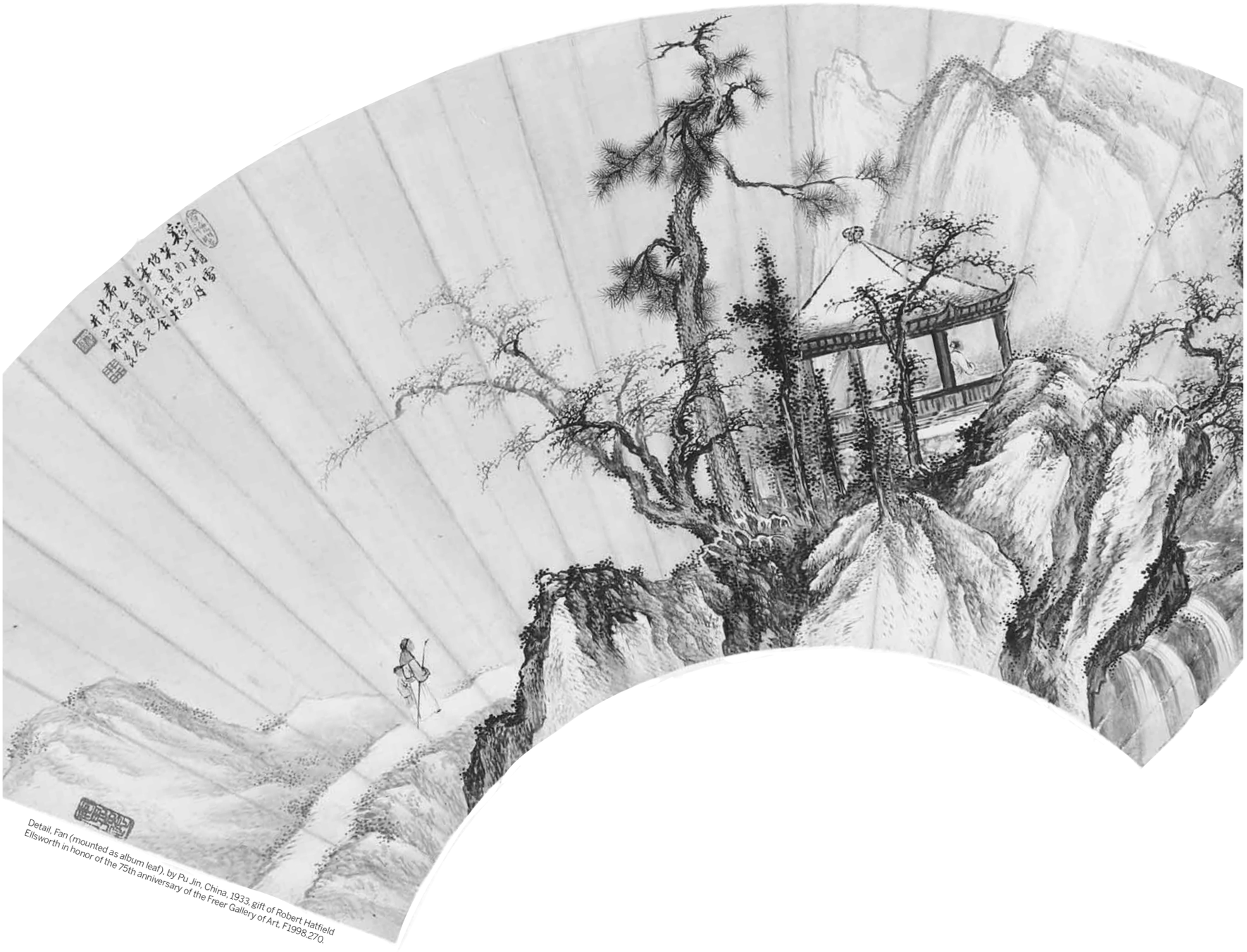
LAST CHANCE **The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon:** The Brothers Grimm meet Monty Python to put a comedic spin on classic tales, opens Fri. through Sat., $8, $5 McLean district residents. McLean Community Center, Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, Va.; 703-790-0123, Aldentheatre.org.

The Kinsey Sicks in Oy Vey In A Manger: The San Francisco-based drag quartet perform their irreverent show, opens Sat. through Jan. 2, $35-$60. Theater J, 1529 16th St. NW; 800-494-8497, Theaterj.org.

The Mousetrap: Agatha Christie's murder mystery is presented, through Jan. 9, $25-$50, $15-$50 students. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean, Va.; 800-838-3006, 1ststagespringhill.org.

The Nutcracker: The Washington Ballet presents a D.C.-themed version of the classic, through Dec. 26, $31-$89. Warner Theatre, 13th and E streets NW; 202-783-4000, Warnertheatre.org.

Walter Cronkite Is Dead: Two strangers strike up a conversation at Reagan National Airport on a stormy day when operations have come to a halt. Maybe in a time as politically fractious as this, the mere idea of two women sitting and absorbing viewpoints they normally wouldn't abide counts as revolutionary, through Dec. 19, $50-$76. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-820-9771, 703-573-7328, Signature-theatre.org.



Detail, Fan (mounted as album leaf), by Pu Jin, China, 1933, gift of Robert Hatfield Ellsworth in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Freer Gallery of Art, F1998.270.

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5PC Bedroom Set—Cherry BDRM Set, New in boxes with warranty, can deliver, was $595 will take $255, 703-887-7666

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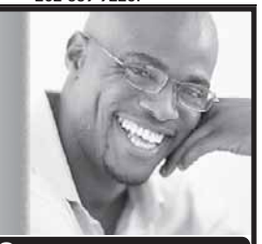

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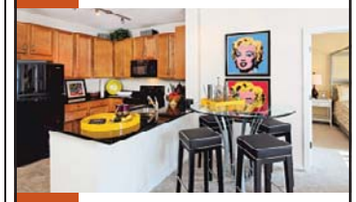

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We're Intrigued
Sandra Bullock tops another list of dubious celebrity honors 35

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All-Star Lame

Reality shows love All-Star editions, in which beloved and detested near-winners (aka losers) return for one more go-round. "Top Chef" launched its first all-star season a few weeks ago. "The Amazing Race" will bring back ex-contestants in 2011. The theory: Viewers enjoy familiar faces.

By Marc Silver

In fact, "Top Chef All-Stars" reveals why all-star editions are a bad idea.

1. Favorites fade. A player who shone in a not-so-strong season (like last cycle's affable Tiffany, above right) seems run-of-the-mill against brilliant contestants (like Richard Blais, who can make ice cream out of mustard).

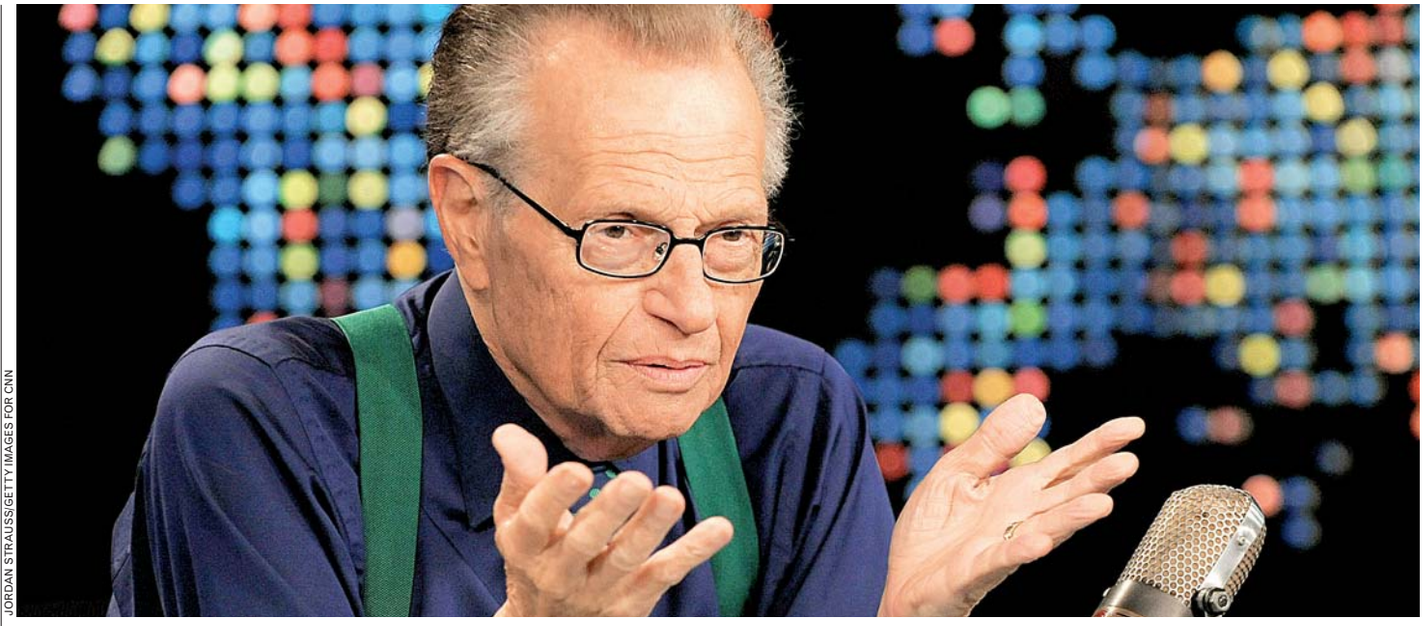
2. Personalities change. Fabio's charm has become grating self-promotion. Jen used to seem admirably strong-willed. Defending a bland pork belly, she sounded delusional.

3. Quirks grow annoying. Then: Ha ha, Spike Mendelsohn always wears a hat. Isn't that cute?! Now: What, did he not have time to wash his hair?

4. "Love to hate" turns to just plain hate. Cases in point: the brash trio of Angelo, Mike Isabella and Marcel.

5. False hopes are depressing. All-stars all swear they will win this time. I hate to break it to you, all-stars, but all except one of you will lose again.

@ Comments? Give Marc your feedback: **expressnightout.com/muse**



JORDAN STRAUSS/GETTY IMAGES FOR CNN

Larry King, the host of CNN's "Larry King Live" since June 1985, will film his last program on Thursday. The host is known for his wide-ranging, conversational interviews.

Last Pair of Suspenders

CNN is surprisingly subdued ahead of Larry King's final live cable broadcast

Finale

Early last June, CNN celebrated 25 years of "Larry King Live" with a week of shows whose A-list guests included President Obama, LeBron James, Bill Gates and Lady Gaga.

It was hyped to the hilt and suitably eventful, even as King and Lady Gaga regarded each other with the bemusement of a human encountering an alien life form.

Then, at the end of June, King suddenly announced he was retiring from his show — a weeknight fixture at 9 p.m. since June 1, 1985. He told viewers, "It's time to hang up my nightly suspenders."

After Thursday's edition, King will indeed hang it up, suspenders and all.

Replacement

Already Causing Trouble

CNN is busily promoting Larry King's successor, Piers Morgan, who debuts in January. Morgan recently said Madonna was banned from "Piers Morgan Tonight": "She is so boring," he told the U.K.'s Express. "She is too vegan for TV. We have Lady Gaga now, so Madonna is banned from my show." Madonna's publicist responded: "Madonna doesn't know who Piers Morgan is, but she's a big fan of Lady Gaga," according to PopEater.com. (EXPRESS)

The lineup for this farewell hour should be stellar, though no names have been announced. The mood should be spirited and flowing with emotion.

But until now, it's been an oddly subdued leave-taking. The promotion machine at a network can make noise over most anything. Or try. CNN isn't bothering. Having paid King his tribute last June, before he even said he would be stepping down, CNN now is treating him as a lame-duck star.

Sure, it would be easy to argue that King, 77, waited too long to hang up those suspenders.

Once the leader in cable TV news, he now ranks third in his time slot behind Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity and MSNBC's Rachel Maddow. His show was seen by 700,000 viewers this year, less than half the nightly audience of his peak year, 1998, when "Larry King Live" drew 1.64 million viewers.

Wide-eyed and nonconfrontational, King's regular-guy approach to interviewing feels dated in an era of edgy, pushy or loaded questioning by other hosts.

"I ask short questions. I have no pretense at intellectuality. I don't pretend to know it all."

"I ask short questions. I have no pretense at intellectuality. I don't pretend to know it all," King said years ago in explaining his style. "Not, 'What about Geneva or Cuba?' I ask, 'Mr. President, what don't you like about this job?' or 'What's the biggest mistake you made?' That's fascinating." FRAZIER MOORE (AP)

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ANNEKE SCHONEVELD/MAGNOLIA PICTURES/AP

Anthony Mackie, left, and Kerry Washington are ex-Panthers in "Night Catches Us."

A Radical Look Back at History

Writer/director Tonya Hamilton fictionalizes life after the Black Panther movement

Film Q&A

In "Night Catches Us," locally bred writer and director Tonya Hamilton imagines life in a 1976 Philadelphia neighborhood after the Black Panther party. The 1997 winner of the Director's Guild of America's award for best female director spoke with Express about how history informed and affected her first feature-length film.

How did you merge history with the personal stories of the characters?

I looked at the history of the Panthers, and I wanted to find a way to have a conversation about it. Yet, I didn't want to make a movie about all the sort of great debates of the Panther movement. I wanted to make a movie a bit inside out about the movement. I wanted to focus on the people but at the same time, bury ... the details of this history.

You intersperse some real footage of the movement throughout the movie. Why?

When I posed the idea initially, they thought I was going to do flashbacks. The editor and I were very adamant that this wasn't about any one character's memories. It was a metaphor for a shared history that these people had. That's the idea we were looking at, a collective consciousness of all of these characters.

The film's ending seems ambiguous. Why did you end it that way?

When you live a life that's unresolved, I don't think you can move forward in sweeping ways. You can inch along, you can cope, but it's like a war veteran — what I kind of look at these characters as — if you don't go and try to find a way to right the pieces of you that are off, I don't know. And these characters that I've crafted are people who are really struggling to find out where they are supposed to be now. The film is just a nice example of how this resonates in every movement.

> **"I didn't want to make a movie about all the ... great debates of the Panther movement."**

DARONA WILLIAMS (EXPRESS)

Our Poor, Distorted District

Films

Mistakes about life in D.C. abound in pop culture, and the new film "How Do You Know" is no exception. Though there are nods to local tastes (literally — at one point, two characters eat Five Guys), every Washingtonian is going to leave the theater wondering why everyone takes the bus and nobody sets foot on a Metro train (One of the characters lives at 15th and I! McPherson Square is right there!). Of course, "How Do You Know" isn't the first to make big-screen blunders.

The Coen brothers' "Burn After Reading" is full of their customary wit, dizzying plots and hatchet murders on the streets of Georgetown. But the filmmaking pair clearly didn't care enough to remember during a scene in which two characters sit in a Jamba Juice that there is no Jamba Juice in the District.

Speaking of Georgetown, one of the most widely known cinematic mistakes is from 1987's "No Way Out," in which Kevin Costner runs from the bad guys into a Metro station, conveniently located in the quiet, brick-lined sidewalks of Georgetown.

And there are plenty of problems with "National Treasure," only one of which is when Nicolas Cage and Diane Kruger manage to walk from the National Archives to the Lincoln Memorial in the space of a few sentences. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY AND FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

DAVID JAMES/COLUMBIA PICTURES-SONY/AP

Reese Witherspoon and Paul Rudd are unaware of Metro in "How Do You Know."

The Washington Ballet's Septime Webre hopes he's created a D.C. tradition.

Native 'Nutcracker'

Septime Webre shares his creative vision of sugarplums

Ballet Q&A

Washington's swankiest yuletide bash isn't invite-only. Septime Webre, the artistic director of the Washington Ballet, didn't want to stage another ubiquitous sugarplum feast, so in 2004, he revamped "The Nutcracker" for capital audiences.

Set in Georgetown in 1882, the ballet features revolutionary mice battling, pint-size clowns giggling and snow queens pirouetting under blooming cherry blossoms, making this "Nutcracker" a must-see holiday treat.

What inspired you to set "The Nutcracker" in Washington?

I've always believed art is at its best when audiences can see themselves reflected onstage. I wanted to develop a "Nutcracker" that could become a Washington tradition, so making the ballet about our community seemed like a great idea.

Washington Post dance critic Sarah Kaufman called this your greatest triumph. Do you agree?

I always think my current work is my greatest triumph. Audiences connect and come back year after year. It's a fresh take on "The Nutcracker," and I'm proud of the way it challenges our dancers classically. We have 425 dancers in the show, and so many Washingtonians are involved.

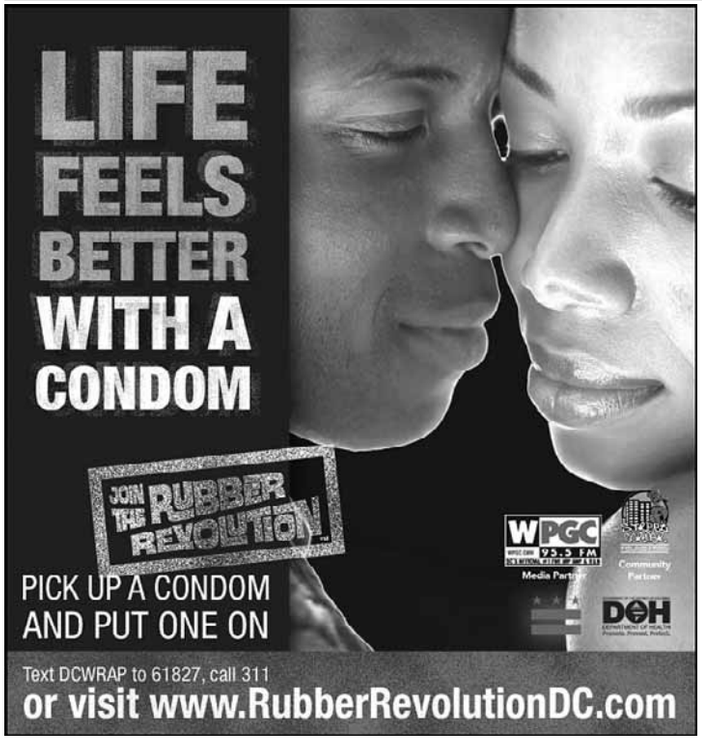
"Swan Lake" and "The Nutcracker" are really accessible ballets for newcomers. Why do Tchaikovsky scores appeal to mass audiences?

Tchaikovsky was a genius. The music is of the highest order, and it stands alone even without the ballet. ... [His] works are so beautiful and sumptuous that they have a life of their own.

Is "Black Swan" good for ballet?

I think it's great for ballet. There are a couple of wincing moments I had as they relate to how the artistic director was portrayed. But the dancing is quite good, and I'm excited that people are interested in ballet. KATHERINE BOYLE (EXPRESS)

● *The Warner Theatre, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; through Dec. 27, $31-$94; 202-347-4707. (Metro Center)*



Women: Is Your Drinking Causing Problems?

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TV tonight lookout

Gangs of Los Angeles

A mediator attempts to resolve conflict in A&E's 'Peacemaker'

Series Premiere

A&E 10:00

The recent hubbub over WikiLeaks has sparked a debate over the nature of diplomacy. Can peace be arrived at in secret negotiations? Or should it be pursued in the light of day?

The new series "The Peacemaker: L.A. Gang Wars" makes a case for the second option. Produced by Ice-T, who also performs the theme song, "Peacemaker" follows the work of gang mediator Malik Spellman as he tries to open dialogue between violent gangs.

In the first installment, he meets with members of two gangs, the Playboy Gangster Crips and the Mansfield Crips after the murder of a pregnant woman in Mansfield territory. The fact that she was carrying the unborn child of a Playboy Crip makes Spellman fear that a new war may be in the offing.

Made with the best of intentions, "Peacemaker" is a tad short on depth and detail. We never learn about the origins or motivations of the rival organizations. Just which illicit businesses or territories do they control or fear losing? We've come to expect a little background from years of watching "The Godfather." KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

SCOTT COUNCIL

Mediator Malik Spellman, right, discusses a truce between rivals in "Peacemaker."

Best Bets

CBS 8:00

The Big Bang Theory Super! The guys finally find a use for Penny's hot new boyfriend, Zack, when they decide to enter a costume contest as the Justice League in the new episode "The Justice League Recombination." Jim Parsons, right, also stars in the episode.

CBS 9:00

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Langston fights for his life after serial killer Nate Haskell stabs him, but that's likely to be of secondary interest to a certain demographic as Justin Bieber makes his acting debut, left, playing a troubled teen facing a difficult decision about his only brother.

TBS 10:00

Funniest Commercials of the Year: 2010 You might think that the last way you want to spend an hour is sitting through commercials, but the entries included here are among the best of their breed. Isaiah Mustafa — aka the guy from those Old Spice ads — hosts the special, which includes appearances by Jonathan Goldsmith (the "Most Interesting Man in the World" from Dos Equis commercials).

USA 10:00

Burn Notice Michael's actions put him in the sights of a tactical assault team as the fourth season of the action-packed drama series draws to a close. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Themes

Ho, Ho, Ho-Hum

Christmas may be nine days away, but it's just about over on network prime time. With the exception of an installment of "$#*! My Dad Says" (8:30 p.m., CBS) about the unappetizing start to a new holiday tradition, all of the Christmas-themed episodes of tonight's series are already in our past. In this new episode, Ed (William Shatner, above), Henry and Vince don't react well to Bonnie's attempt to start a new family dinner tradition. (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE/ TRIBUNE MEDIA)

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Poll Center

Today's Question

SHOULD METRO GO OUTSIDE THE TRANSIT WORLD FOR A NEW GENERAL MANAGER?

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Yesterday's Results

DO YOU THINK MICHAEL STEELE WILL WIN A SECOND TERM AS RNC CHAIRMAN?

"Who knows? He did manage to get over 60 Congressman and a few Senators elected this time around, but he is gaffe-prone like Biden, so who really knows? I guess if Biden can get a second chance in 2012, then Steele can get a second term as well."

COMMENTER COMMON KEVIN

"Despite his ineptitude, Steele will be around awhile longer, thanks to the Republican gains in the House. It doesn't hurt that he's African-American."

COMMENTER RURAHRAH

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

Blog Log

"The whole video is actually a near-re-creation of a scene from one of my favorite movies that no one has ever heard of, 'The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford.' Mashing Yogi Bear with a practically unknown indie western? My head = blown into space."

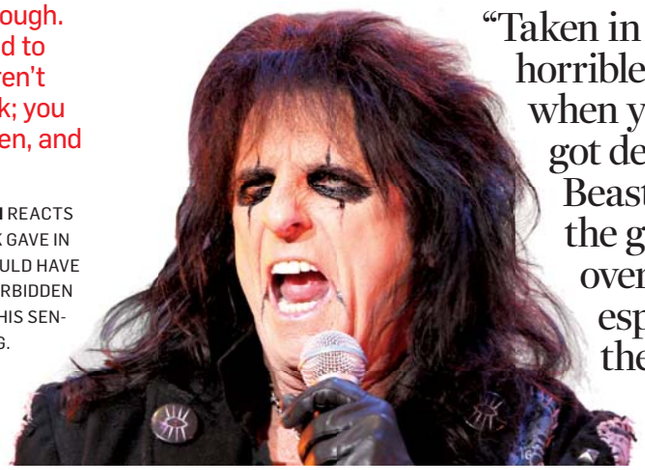
— **POPWATCH.EW.COM** IS A HUGE FAN OF THE VIRAL VIDEO "BOO-BOO KILLS YOGI" A PARODY ON YOGI BEAR.

"I'm completely underwhelmed by this trailer; it didn't even get a single laugh out of me. The comedy from the first film has clearly been lost. It's visually appealing yet very basic in it's presentation. This just doesn't seem as big as the last three films in scope or talent. Maybe Johnny should have said no to this one."

— **BACKSEATCUDDLER.COM** WAS LET DOWN BY THE PREVIEW FOR "PIRATES OF THE CARRIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES."

"Let this man have a Scooby-Doo for his kids. He was in jail for two years and he is millions in debt — I think he has been punished enough. He should be allowed to have a puppy. You aren't punishing Michael Vick; you are punishing his children, and that [is] cruel."

— **BLACKSPORTSONLINE.COM** REACTS TO AN INTERVIEW MICHAEL VICK GAVE IN WHICH HE SAID HE WISHES HE COULD HAVE A DOG FOR HIS FAMILY, BUT IS FORBIDDEN TO BECAUSE OF THE TERMS OF HIS SENTENCE FOR DOGFIGHTING.



"Taken in a vacuum, that's not a horrible group of musicians. But when you look at the nominees that got denied (especially LL Cool J, Beastie Boys and Bon Jovi) and the groups who continue to get overlooked (Kiss, Rush), it seems especially insane that this is the group."

— **NEWSROOM.MTV.COM** WASN'T VERY IMPRESSED WITH THIS YEAR'S LIST OF ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES, WHICH INCLUDES ALICE COOPER.

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Who Would Have Guessed That Soul, R&B Recording Artist, Marilyn Ashford-Brown Would Be Performing To A Predominantly White Audience?

"Am I crossing over?" were her thoughts as she browsed her audience last August at the historic Blues Alley. By the end of each show everyone was on their feet chanting, "Encore!" Recently returning from performing in Costa Brava, Spain this independent artist has single-handedly generated a huge following, promoting herself in a way that apparently has worked without the help of a major record label, and the end results are evident…the audience simply loves her. Her friend, Composer/Producer Dexter Wansel who made a special guest appearance last August, put it best stating that "It's more than just her music that people come to hear, they really like her. They love the way Marilyn makes them feel...she's very personal, sincere and engaging."

"This has been an amazing year, and for the first time in six years since the death of my husband, I truly feel the spirit of Christmas... God is so Amazing! Everyone at Blues Alley next week will be my Christmas present, and I thank God for them."

Ashford-Brown returns to Blues Alley this coming Tuesday, December 21st with some surprises in store, including her Manager, Dirk who flew in from the Netherlands along with his wife for Marilyn's first, "Soulful Christmas Performance," and what a great way to celebrate the season. There are two shows beginning at 8:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. - 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. (located in the heart of Georgetown).

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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You can expect others to ask you for things at the last minute — and to your surprise, you'll be able to accommodate most requests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You can have a significant impact on the day, provided you have been keeping abreast of all trends and developments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may not know just what is going to be asked of you until you are immersed in the situation at hand. Be ready for anything.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Many may not notice the part you play, but without your involvement, a project isn't likely to get off the ground.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You will want to stay out of another's way throughout much of the day, but the time will come when you must focus on your own efforts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The why is just as important to you as the how, but not everyone will share in your aesthetic enthusiasm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You will be doing someone a great favor simply by showing your support; indeed, your overall opinion is valued more than you know.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may find yourself competing with someone who only yesterday was very much a part of your own team. How things change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You will have the chance to show off your creativity in a more favorable venue; those who have come to see and hear you are true fans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be sure to hit all of your landmarks as you progress carefully toward your ultimate goal. Skipping a step can be disastrous.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You'll be able to get a great deal done even with all the distractions surrounding you. Your concentration is unassailable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your beliefs may be put to the test as someone you know well challenges the basics. You can and will hold your ground.

PostPoints DAILY CODE G Y

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 150-160, BEST SCORE 239

								RACK 1
E1	O1	O1	L1	R1	C3	P3		
								RACK 2
A1	A1	A1	Y4	Y4	L1	W4	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 3
E1	I1	U1	R1	V4	C3	S1	4th Letter Double	
								RACK 4
A1	A1	A1	R1	N1	Z10	B3		

Yesterday's Solution

C3	O1	M3	P3	U1	T1	E1	RACK 1 =	89
S1	A1	N1	D2	B3	A1	R1	RACK 2 =	60
G2	H4	O1	S1	T1	L1	Y4	RACK 3 =	65
B3	A1	K5	L1	A1	V4	A1	RACK 4 =	66
PAR SCORE 200-210							TOTAL	280

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

7					6		4	
		8					6	5
		9			3	1		
				5	8			
	7		1		4		5	
			6	7				
		1	2			8		
3	4					5		
	9		4					2

Yesterday's Solution

9	8	1	3	2	4	5	6	7
7	3	2	1	6	5	4	9	8
5	4	6	9	7	8	1	2	3
1	7	9	4	5	6	8	3	2
6	2	8	7	3	1	9	4	5
3	5	4	8	9	2	6	7	1
4	1	3	2	8	9	7	5	6
2	9	5	6	1	7	3	8	4
8	6	7	5	4	3	2	1	9

Need more Sudoku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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Comics

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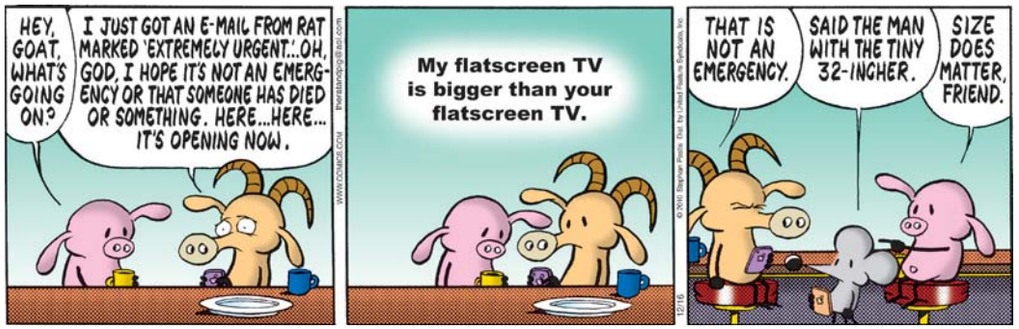
POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast

31 | 23

Today: Cold today with a bit of snow; up to an inch. Partly cloudy tonight.

39 | 29

Tomorrow: Partly sunny tomorrow. Cloudy tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

SAT	SUN	MON
39 | 27	37 | 25	36 | 26

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:20 a.m.
Sunset today: 4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today: 1:18 p.m.
Moonset today: 2:37 a.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 47
Record high: 71
Normal low: 32
Record low: 6

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009

Workhouse ARTS CENTER

Special Holiday Hours!

Monday, December 20: Closed

Tuesday, December 21: 11am-5pm

Wednesday - Friday December 22-24: 11am-7pm

Saturday, December 25: Closed

Sunday, December 26: 12-5pm

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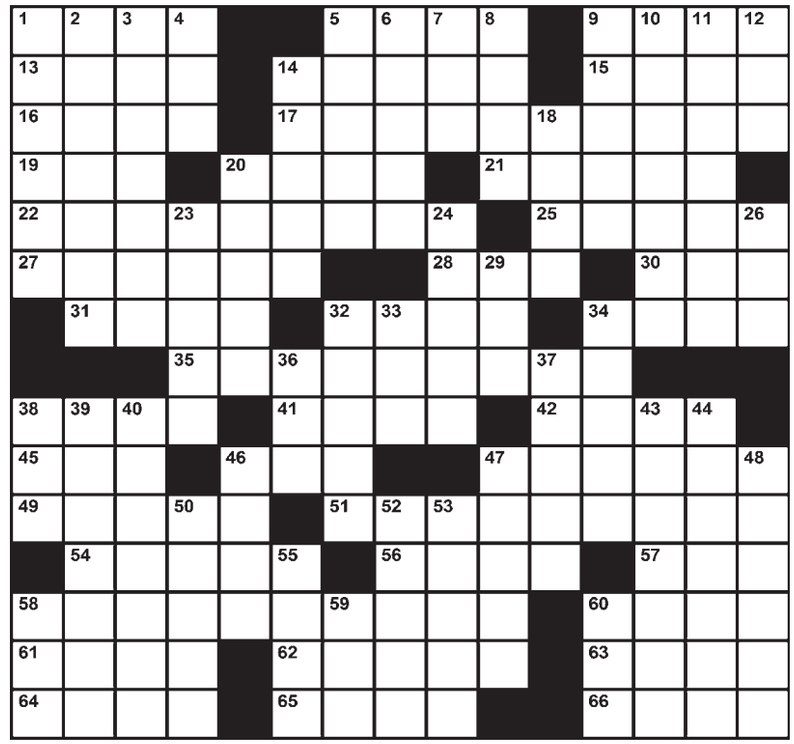

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

ACROSS

1 Couple's possessive
5 Unreturned tennis scores
9 High-spirited
13 Chimney feature
14 Tickle one's fancy
15 Treble woodwind
16 Sulk angrily
17 Slugger's spot
19 Worldwide workers' assn.
20 Small, reddish monkey
21 Gets rid of waist?
22 Enjoy the present
25 Southern dish
27 Everlasting, in odes
28 History book chapter
30 "Gloria in excelsis ___" (hymn)
31 Cut out the bloopers
32 Gel for sunburn
34 Plural suffix with "auction"
35 Prepare for a bout
38 Having dog-paddled
41 Appealing addition
42 Italian wine
45 "At Seventeen" singer Janis
46 Three-way joint
47 Warsaw's place
49 Prickly plant (var.)
51 Golden best friend
54 Spread here and there
56 Type of ring that goes with bell-bottoms
57 Literary olio
58 Meal pack that often contains fries
60 Not just swallow whole
61 Something to take when you need a break?
62 Pal of Cecil the sea serpent
63 Flower for Midler
64 Page for columns
65 Eyelid inflammation
66 Former communist state

DOWN

1 Place of business
2 Wail
3 Unverified
4 "Didn't I tell you?"
5 Cremona violinmaker
6 Adorable one
7 D.C. clock setting
8 Watermelon eater's annoyance
9 Tough riddle
10 Receding ocean movement
11 Farm alarm
12 Cowpuncher's moniker, perhaps
14 Wait patiently
18 Baltic seaport
20 First extra baseball inning
23 Color-full device?
24 Catty chorus
26 Distress signal
29 Yank's foe
32 Noted Austrian psychiatrist
33 Songwriter Reed
34 Napoleon, for a time
36 Copier at the zoo?
37 Elliptical
38 Family reunion attendee
39 Destroyer, for one
40 Promoting accord
43 Arizona Native Americans (var.)
44 Solidarity
46 Travel laboriously
47 Authorized stand-in
48 Cash register part
50 Followed a projectile's path
52 Shelter, as in a cove
53 A million ___ (long odds)
55 Fly trappers
58 Corp. money handler
59 Word with "butterfly" or "mosquito"
60 Grand ___ (wine phrase)

Yesterday's Solution

Today in History

1773 The Boston Tea Party takes place as colonists board a British ship and dump more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

1950 President Harry S. Truman proclaims a national state of emergency to fight "world conquest by communist imperialism."

2009 Tiger Woods is voted the AP's Athlete of the Decade.

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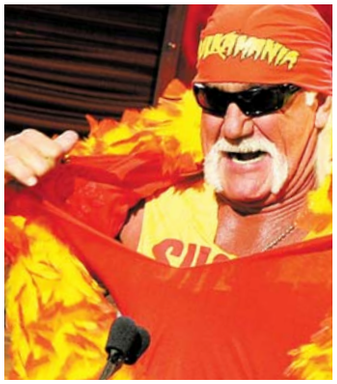
people lookout



RELEVANCE

Couple So Flattered A Photographer Cared Enough to Sneak In

Hulk Hogan married girlfriend Jennifer McDaniel Tuesday evening on the beach in Clearwater, Fla., but the ceremony was marred by a brawl. Police were called when an uninvited photographer showed up and scuffled with a family employee, TMZ.com reported. No one was arrested, however, and the wedding continued. **(EXPRESS)**

HOBBIES

The Couple Who Sue J.Lo Together ... Probably Won't Stay Together

Jennifer Lopez is being sued for $10 million by ex-husband Ojani Noa's girlfriend, Radaronline.com reported. Claudia Vazquez says Lopez interfered with releasing home video footage shot during Noa's marriage to Lopez. Lopez sued Noa over the tapes; he countersued. The new suit alleges that Lopez lied in court to block production. **(EXPRESS)**

PUNCTUATION

It Has ... Ellipses, So It Must Be ... Poetry

Pamela Anderson will appear on the cover of and in an eight-page pictorial within the January issue of Playboy, Usmagazine.com reported. This is the 43-year-old Anderson's 13th Playboy cover. She also wrote a poem, some of which goes: "Our best isn't good enough — right now our eyes are far-reaching. Please let's show the good in us ... The brilliance ... The wonderful ... It's abundant — it's just not tapped as it should be." **(EXPRESS)**

CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY IMAGES

"All my suffering this year was worth it to be at the top of whatever this is!"

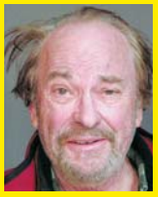
FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Suffer, Be Hot, or Both

Sandra Bullock is People magazine's Woman of the Year and the most intriguing on its Most Intriguing Newsmakers list. "Bad things happen, but she celebrates the good ones," a source said of Bullock. "And Louis [her son] is a wonderful celebration of good things." Also intriguing: Bret Michaels, who told People "I don't want my legacy to be a hemorrhage — I want it to be: I'm a fighter, I'm passionate, I'm hard-working and I love music;" Kim Kardashian; Kate Middleton and Prince William; and Elin Nordegren. **(EXPRESS)**

Box of Shame

How Can We Be Mad at That Face?



Rip Torn has pleaded guilty to charges stemming from allegations he broke into a Litchfield, Conn., bank while drunk. He was arrested in January after police found him inside the bank with a gun. The actor was given a 2 1/2-year suspended sentence and three years of probation. A defense attorney says Torn is thankful no one was injured and he didn't end up in jail. **(AP)**

"The movie is about a drug addict and a porn star. ... It is hard when you are a serious actor with what she has been through; we don't need that."

— **DINA LOHAN** TELLS RADARONLINE.COM THAT HER DAUGHTER LINDSAY LOHAN WAS NOT FIRED FROM "INFERNO" EARLIER THIS YEAR; SHE LEFT OF HER OWN ACCORD.

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